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Osaimi dashes to Algiers

Negotiations with hijackers stalled

ALGIERS, April 13, (Agencies): Muslim fundamentalist hijackers holding 32 hostages aboard a Kuwait Airways jetliner allowed two Algerian government officials inside the aircraft today and pledged not to harm the captives but the drama seemed locked in a stalemate.

Algerian Interior Minister El Hadi Khediri wrangled with the masked gunmen for 30 minutes aboard the Boeing 747 at Houari Boumedienne International Airport on a palm-fringed runway in front of the Djura mountains. He stepped inside the blue and white airplane shortly before 8 am (0700 GMT) — five hours after the aircraft arrived from Cyprus where the hijackers traded 12 hostages for fuel.

Confident

"They told me they would try in Algiers to be very calm and use no violence," Khediri said. Then he met with Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Osaimi, who flew into the airport today at the head of an eight-man delegation to join the negotiations.

Khediri said the hijackers, had promised to try to avoid harming their remaining hostages but described them as determined to pursue their demand.

Al Osaimi seemed optimistic. "I am confident for a happy ending in Algiers," he said. "My aim is to supervise the affair. I would like to thank Algeria for its very broad friendship. I hope this will be the last stage," Osaimi told reporters.

He said Kuwait had great confidence in the Algerians.

In an optimistic note, Algerian Radio said late tonight negotiations made progress in talks with the hijackers and a peaceful solution to the nine-day crisis could be imminent. In a report from Algiers airport the state radio said the drama could be over within hours.

Algerian diplomats declined to comment on how the talks with the Kuwaitis had gone. Two PLO officials who played a crucial role in negotiations which led to the release of 12 passengers left Cyprus for Algiers today. Arab Times reporter Jadranka Porter quoted a reliable source in Cyprus as saying:

Signal

They are Milad Abdu and Samir Abu Ghazala. Their presence in Algiers was requested by the hijackers of Boeing 747. The PLO chairman Yasser

Arafat is believed to have given a green signal to the two mediators to set out for Algiers where they are expected to arrive at midnight.

Meanwhile Kuwaiti newspapers quoted Arafat as saying he doubted Algeria would be the last stop for the captive Kuwait Airways jet.

"I don't think this operation will come to an end in Algiers," Arafat said according to a Kuwaiti daily.

In an interview with Cable Network News, Arafat blamed Iran for the hijacking. When asked who was involved, Arafat said: "Some of them are Lebanese. Some of them belong to the Iranian government."

"According to my best information, they (the Iranians) are behind the whole operation," Arafat said in a telephone interview from North Yemen.

Connection

The PLO was involved in negotiations to try to end the crisis.

But in Brussels, a senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official today denied any link between Tehran and those responsible for the hijack.

"We categorically deny having any connection to this incident," said Ali Ahani, (Continued on Page 2)

KUWAIT will not yield, reiterates Sheikh Nawaf

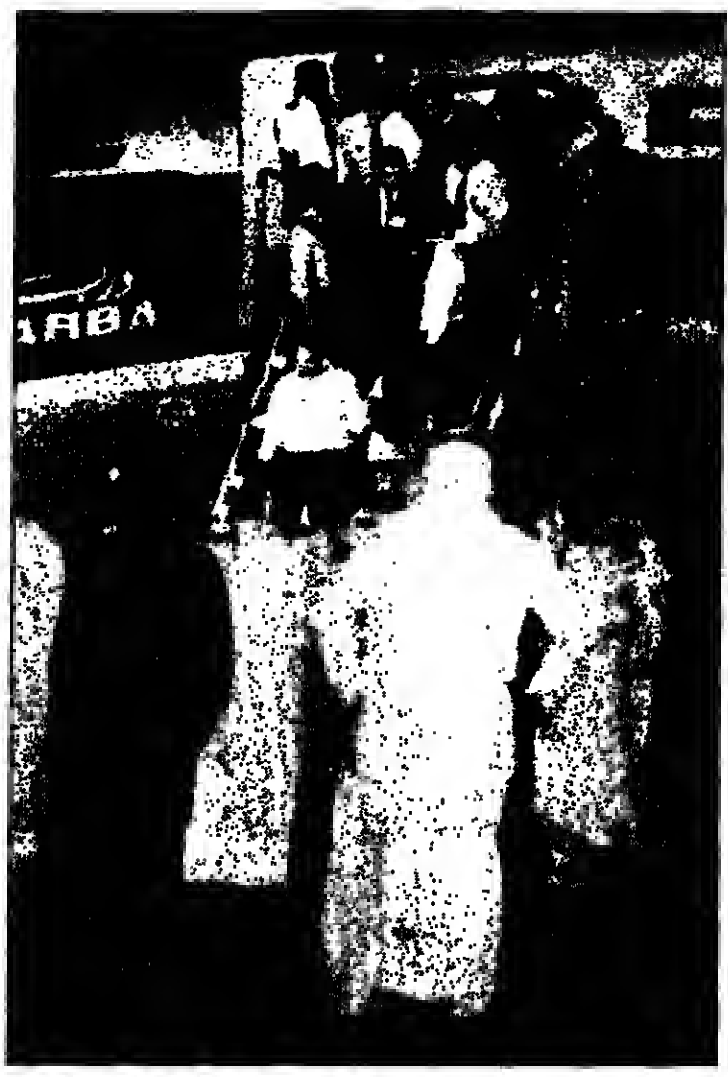
KUWAIT has reiterated its refusal to swap 17 Arab prisoners held in Kuwait jails for hostages on a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner now in Algiers.

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah said: "We will never change our position toward our principles and our faith in them... our position is firm."

Arah gunmen are still holding 32 passengers of a Boeing 747 hijacked on April 5. They have killed two Kuwaitis to press demands for the release of the 17.

Speaking to newsmen following the graduation ceremony of a new batch of conscript cadets, Sheikh Nawaf said: "Kuwait will not cave in, and will not change its attitude towards blackmail... Our position as stated by officials was made by the Kuwaiti people and not the Kuwaiti government alone."

Sheikh Nawaf praised the performance of Kuwaiti soldiers. Addressing the graduates, (Continued on Page 2)



Free at last: passengers disembarking

One hijacker identified

By Lima Khalafawi

ONE of the freed passengers, Ramadan Mohammad Attaya identified one of the hijackers as "Lebanese."

On arrival in Kuwait last night he said: "One of them was frequently called Jameel."

Attaya, who said he was beaten cruelly by the hijackers, looked exhausted but rested like the other eleven.

"The hijackers took hostages to the front of the plane for interrogation," he said.

Sight

Khaled Ayoub Ismail Ayoub Bandar, who was one of the two passengers killed, had been repeatedly taken for interrogation, Attaya revealed. At one point, Khaled became irritated, he added. That was the last time the other hostages saw Khaled alive. Attaya claimed that the hijackers used silencer guns to kill the hostages.

Attaya said he was handcuffed, and like other passengers, asked to lower his head on his knees. "They were very organised and never left sight of the

12 freed hostages return to emotional welcome

By Fathima Ahmed and Jadranka Porter

TWELVE hostages — exhausted but cheerful — arrived in Kuwait last night to an emotional reunion with their families.

If there were any tears they were tears of joy as the 12 hostages disembarked from a special KAC jet at the VIP lounge at the Kuwait Airport. Family members rushed to greet them with hugs and blessings.

Fifty-five minutes after the plane landed at 7.15 pm waiting had still not ended for the crowd of relatives and families of the 12 passengers who were released by the hijackers of the KAC aircraft in Larnaca, Cyprus, on Tuesday night.

"Will Ramadhan (Mohammad Attaya) need an ambulance to take him home or to the hospital," asked his anxious sister-in-law, who had been waiting near the VIP lounge gate since 5 pm yesterday.

Security

The 12 hostages — four Kuwaitis, five Egyptians, and three Jordanians, one of them a Palestinian holding a Jordanian passport, arrived amid tight security. They were met at the airport by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and the American and Egyptian ambassadors and diplomats from the embassies of Egypt and Jordan.

Reporters were allowed only a brief glimpse of the passengers as they were immediately whisked into the lounge to meet the minister and envoys.

Only one male member from each family was allowed to enter the VIP lounge at Kuwait Airport. The rest of the family members and relatives waited for the passengers near the VIP lounge gate.

Claims

If correct, that would appear to add weight to claims in Kuwaiti news reports that at least one additional hijacker joined the plane in Mashhad.

"They changed the crew, you know, their team," passenger Ramadan Mohammed Attaya, told NBC-TV's "Today" show. "One of them left... and another two guys came over... and they provided them with new weapons... and bombs... and ropes... and explosives."

Meanwhile, another passenger, Mohammed Ashkanani, told a Kuwaiti daily he had noticed two hijackers board the plane in Mashhad to join six already there.

In a separate, uncorroborated report the daily said that the hijackers' leader was believed to be Imad Fayezi Mughniya, a

Said one member of Habib and Saleh Malak's family: "Now, we can sleep in peace." Apparently, they kept nightly vigil monitoring news from newspapers about the fate of the two brothers who were aboard the plane.

Prevent

Kuwait Airways public relations director Abdullah Nafisi told reporters the airline was studying plans to deploy sky marshals on some flights to prevent future hijackings. Flights to non-Arab Asian destinations have been suspended, pending reassessment of security arrangements.

Minister of State for Communications Issa Mohammad Al Mazedi returned with the freed hostages. Some members of the Kuwaiti delegations negotiating with the hijackers in Cyprus also returned home.

Jadranka Porter adds from Larnaca: the eight day ordeal may have left the 12 physically fit but perhaps scarred them psychologically.

Speaking to the Arab Times in the VIP lounge at Larnaca Airport before their departure they said they did not have a wink of sleep during their first night of freedom.

"We cannot eat and sleep and we are still worried about our fellow-passengers" said one passenger tormented by memories.

Some of the freed hostages still had an empty look on their faces and did not shave 18 hours after they had got off the aircraft. Few looked chirpy, among them Helal Fareed, a Jordanian KAC steward whose wife is expecting to deliver a baby within the next 24 hours.

Dr Sabah Hadeedi of Amiri Hospital who accompanied the passengers home said one pas-

Cyprus handled crisis skilfully

NICOSIA, April 13, (Agencies): The killer hijackers left Cyprus after apparently facing down the government, but diplomats said it was still too early to praise or blame the Cypriots.

On a crude count, five days of negotiations at Larnaca airport produced the murder of two hostages, the release of 12 and the refuelling which the hijackers had demanded throughout.

Cyprus, which allowed the plane to land with nearly empty tanks after it spent four hours circling Beirut airport, first insisted that the hijackers could fly out only if they released all their hostages.

But when the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 left for Algiers today the gunmen still had an estimated 32 captives.

Cyprus said it approved the deal after assurance from Algeria that the hostages would be released there.

Decision

Diplomats said the wisdom of the Cypriot decision could only be judged if this was achieved quickly.

After the plane left, government spokesman Akis Fantis denied there had been any compromise and said the foremost

concern had been the well-being of the passengers and crew.

He said Cyprus had never considered storming the plane, which the hijackers said was wired to explode.

Instead, with the help of the PLO, Cypriot authorities doggedly pursued negotiations and stall tactics.

They first met the gunmen's demand for fuel with such excuses as the difficulty of obtaining supplies over the Greek Orthodox Easter weekend.

Carnage

The hijackers responded by dumping one dead hostage on the tarmac on Saturday and another on Monday. On Tuesday they said they were ready for death.

Political sources said the Cypriot government had few choices if it believed the gunmen's threats, backed as they were by the two Kuwaiti corpses in the mortuary.

They said Cyprus had no special force with experience in storming aircraft and they also cited the carnage resulting from the last attempt to storm a

Gaza woman dies of tear gas

TEL AVIV, April 13, (Reuters): A 70-year-old Palestinian woman died today after inhaling tear gas in a clash with troops in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The woman's death raised the death toll to at least 141 Palestinians and two Israelis in the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which began in December.

Shifa Hospital in Gaza said the woman was overcome by tear gas fired by troops at Jabalya refugee camp. She was the second Palestinian in two days to die after inhaling tear gas.

Protest

The Army said a 21-year-old boy was overcome by tear gas at Sha'ti camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday during a protest against the expulsion on Monday of eight Palestinians to Lebanon for anti-Israeli activity.

In Vienna, the director of health of the UN Relief and Works Agency charged that Israel had used highly toxic gases against protesters in Gaza, causing at least two deaths and several miscarriages. A military official denied the charge.

A 15-year-old boy from Jabalya was shot in the side, and several people were wounded by beatings and rubber bullets in the protests, Shifa hospital said.

Sweep

The Army closed Jabalya and Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. Palestinian sources said telephone links were cut to Jabalya, where more than 1,000 school-children demonstrated at military headquarters.

In Jerusalem, police arrested eight people in a raid on the offices of the Arab Study Society, an East Jerusalem research centre.

The eight were released a few hours later.

The Army arrested about 50 Palestinians suspected of involvement in an early morning sweep on the West Bank village of Salfit, security sources said. A curfew was imposed on the village during the raid and later removed.

Violence continued during the night in the West Bank. An Israeli soldier and two Palestinians were slightly wounded in a clash at Kafr Taluz when demonstrators threw stones at an Army bus, the Army said. It did not say how the Palestinians were injured.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says Israel will continue expelling Palestinians for anti-Israeli activity despite protests from abroad.

Israel deported eight Palestinians to Lebanon on Monday.



Together after an ordeal: a freed passenger clings to his daughter

Arafat's role lauded

LONDON, April 13, (Kuna): Two respected British newspapers paid tribute today to the role played by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in trying to resolve the crisis of the hijacked Kuwait airliner.

The Guardian newspaper noted that Arafat has said that his offer to act as a mediator was given because of "his influential position in the Arab world."

The paper noted that Arafat's involvement in the hijack negotiations coincided with the Israeli deportation of eight more Palestinians from the occupied territories to South Lebanon.

The Guardian made it clear that the ordeal of the hijacked jet had drawn attention away from the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Aligned

The Guardian remarked that the hijacking "afforded Arafat an irresistible opportunity to take the centre of the international stage as a man of moderation aligned with the forces of law and order against those of lawlessness and terror."

It quoted a PLO official in Beirut as saying: "The hijackers must know that if he (Arafat) is

compelled to come down on one side it would not be on theirs."

For its part, the Times newspaper agreed with this assessment, while pinpointing that Arafat's "key role" in negotiations over the hijacking "marks his return to centre stage in Middle East politics after six years on the sidelines."

He had been making a slow comeback since his departure with around 10,000 followers from Beirut in 1982.

The paper believed that the release of the 12 hostages at Larnaca last night would "enhance Arafat's prestige within the Arab world."

Meanwhile, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, David Owen, praised today the handling of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner's crisis by Kuwait and the other governments involved.

"I think the Kuwaitis are absolutely right not to allow themselves to be blackmailed," he said.

Speaking on BBC television Dr Owen, a former Labour foreign secretary, made it clear "tragically and sadly I think the line has to be held and they (the Kuwaitis) need support to do so."

Kuwait refutes Iranian charges

LONDON, April 13, (Reuters): Kuwait denied today that Iran had offered to storm the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner last week and accused Tehran of sympathising with the hijackers.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larjani told a news conference in London yesterday that Iran proposed storming the plane in a bid to free hostages after it was hijacked to Mashhad airport on April 5, but Kuwait rejected the offer.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in London, reacting to the charge, said in a statement: "Iran did not suggest such an action and in fact the Kuwaiti government had asked Iran to deal with the hijackers as Iran deemed appropriate."

Moreover, the Iranian negotiator stood by the hijackers and adopted their point of view, blaming and accusing Kuwait in an attempt to justify Iran's position which was not serious in putting an end to the hijacking on Iranian territory," the statement said.

INTERNATIONAL

Negotiations with hijackers stalled

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Foreign Ministry director for Political, Economic and Cultural Relations with Western Europe.

The blue and white jet, which the gunmen have called the "Plane of Martyrdom," landed in Algiers at 3:07 am today (0307 GMT) after sitting for five days in the Larnaca airport.

Asked if the hijackers still planned to kill hostages as they have threatened, Khediri said: "I cannot answer this question because doing so would compromise my efforts and could even compromise them." He said he had seen five or six hijackers, but did not know the exact number. He was told there were 32 passengers.

He said the passengers were in good condition. The hijackers are armed with grenades and guns.

"I believe they (the hijackers) know what they are doing. They gave me the impression of being extremely determined," he said.

Visit

A second Interior Ministry official who was not further identified boarded the plane at around 4 pm (1500 GMT) and stayed for 25 minutes. Reporters watching with binoculars said it definitely was not Khediri, however.

Algerian mediators made a

third visit to the airliner after the hijackers radioed the control tower to say: "We want a dialogue."

The official Algerian news agency APS said the third visit came at 1830 GMT when a "member of the Algerian team helping in negotiations" at the scene boarded the airliner.

The agency did not identify the man and did not say what progress, if any, was being made to end the hijacking.

Strain

Nearly 15 hours after the plane landed none of the hostages on board had been released. It was not clear what was stalling the negotiations — whether there were differences between the hijackers and the Algerians, or between the Algerians and the Kuwaitis. But some diplomatic sources just blamed the usually slow-moving pace of diplomacy in the Arab world.

The plane began to show signs of strain as the ordeal wore on. The air-conditioning system broke down and had to be repaired. The galleys were empty and takeaway food was hauled into the cockpit on ropes made of napkins.

The gunmen caused a stir at one point among exhausted television cameramen by unceremoniously dumping half a dozen bundles out of the win-

dow. But this time they were not corpses but trash that had accumulated during the nine day odyssey through the skies of the Middle East.

The hijackers, meanwhile, opened a cockpit window and draped a green-and-red flag over the aircraft's windshield in an apparent effort to hock out the scorching sun.

They demanded water to top up the plane's air-conditioning system and a water pipe was hrought up to the plane by ground crews. The APS said kerosene fuel was also provided to keep the cooling system going.

Algerian security, noticeably light around the palm-fringed airfield, also appeared on edge. At one point, a police van roared across the tarmac to block the path of a mechanic who was approaching the aircraft.

Open

The plane was parked in the open on the tarmac at the airport, where temperatures before noon reached 24 degrees Centigrade (75 Fahrenheit). Officials said it would be much hotter inside the aircraft.

Jadranka Porter adds: There has been no clear indication as to the kind of arrangement made to secure the release of the 12 hostages already freed, as well as those still aboard the hijacked airliner.

Kuwait's Foreign Ministry official Darar Al Razuki told the Arab Times, barely an hour after the release of the 12, that there had been no deal.

But sources say that the PLO and Cyprus government hinted that an overall deal leading to the release of all hostages had been considered.

Deal

Kuwait's Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazzeidi said Kuwait had not entered direct negotiations and that everything had been done through the government of Cyprus.

The Cypriot Minister of Interior Christos Veniamin, who himself was held hostage by militant Palestinians some 10 years ago, said an understanding rather than a deal had been reached.

The Cyprus government spokesman Akis Fantis told reporters minutes after the hijacked plane took off from Larnaca airport that his government had received assurances from high ranking Algerian officials that all passengers would be released.

When reminded that Cyprus government's position was not to refuse the hijacked aircraft unless all passengers were released, Fantis said: "That was yesterday. Besides I did not say they had to be released in Larnaca."



The father of one of the victims breaks down beside the coffin of his son (above). The coffin of another victim is being taken away from the plane (below). Sheikh Salem leads the pallbearers.

12 freed hostages arrive in Kuwait

(Continued from Page 1)

senger's blood pressure shot up while another Sharif Mamdouh Badrawi, an Egyptian, was punched in the face.

Badrawi seemed to have recovered but said he still had stomach-aches.

"They punched me for no apparent reason," he said.

The atmosphere of the plane's inside, where the passengers were herded in the central part near the wings, was fairly relaxed, one said.

"No one cried and the women were very strong. They did not break down but we did not know that they were from the ruling family," said Adnan Rashed, 33, a Kuwaiti businessman.

"One of the hijackers allowed us to smoke and go to the toilet whenever we requested while another was deaf to our requests," he added.

"My handcuffs were loose and I could even slip my hand out, except that I did not dare."

He said the food they had in Cyprus mainly consisted of a pie, of bread and cheese.

The passengers were completely unaware of what was going on around them. They never heard anyone was killed or released. But they also lost count of time and could not tell the day from the night.

The only person they saw

board the plane in Mashhad was an Iranian cleaner who worked swiftly with three pistols pointed at his head, Rashed said.

The passengers never saw the hijackers' faces but thought that five of them were aged 20 to 30 and two of them were in their late thirties.

They spoke Arabic in different dialects, alternating between Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian and Lebanese accents.

The released passengers said they did not know that negotiations were under way but deduced so when they saw the hijackers getting together to consult in low voices.

They were not aware that prior to landing in Larnaca the airliner circled over Beirut and knew they were in Cyprus when the food arrived, served on Cyprus Airways trays. They had been handcuffed just before landing in Larnaca and some had cuts on their wrists.

They were forced to swap seats every 10 hours and complained about bad smell and heat on the aircraft, which must have occurred when the air-conditioning system broke down on Monday.

The hijackers repeatedly contacted the control tower on Monday night and early Tuesday demanding that engineers attend to the ground generator and sewage disposal.

"We died 20 deaths every day," said one of the freed passengers. "This is a new life."

The freed passengers said the hijackers rigged the doors of the Boeing 747 with dynamite after landing at Larnaca on Friday night.

"When any person opens the door from outside, airport and airplane would blow up," Sharif Mamdouh quoted the hijackers as saying. "All the time, they threatened: 'kill you, kill you, kill you, kill you.'"

Kuwait will hold field

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheikh Nawaf exhorted them to preserve the national security and sovereignty and act as a hard shield for the country.

The graduation ceremony was held under the patronage of HH the Amir.

Declaring the ceremony open, acting director of the military college staff Colonel Sultan Farhan pointed out that the college is striving to keep abreast of the latest in military education and technology.

Afterwards the Defence Minister awarded the cadets their graduation diplomas.

One hijacker identified

(Continued from Page 1)

prominent Lebanese Shiite Muslim militant with close Iranian ties.

The paper said he was believed to have boarded in Mashhad with colleagues to reinforce a less-skilled hijacking team already on the plane.

Mughniya has a personal interest in the case because his wife is related to one of the 17 Arab militants jailed in Kuwait whose release the hijackers have demanded.

Algerian negotiator is veteran troubleshooter

ALGIERS, April 13. (Reuters): The man negotiating with hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner at Algiers airport is a veteran troubleshooter whose successes have included a vital role in the freeing of the American Tehran embassy hostages in 1981.

Interior Minister El Hadi Khediri has been a leading player in building Algeria's reputation as a key world mediator and an expert in ending major international crises.

Khediri has helped to mediate in Arab crises, building on Algeria's policy of non-alignment and of neutrality in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

He took part in negotiations during the 1983 hijacking of a Transworld Airlines (TWA) Boeing by two Lebanese Shiite Muslim gunmen, in which one US passenger was killed, and has played a prominent part in Algerian mediation efforts for Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Closest

A technocrat, he is one of the closest associates of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. One diplomat described him as always cool and calm, a really unflappable personality in any crisis.

As the latest hijacking began to unfold in Iran and Cyprus, sources close to Chadli declined to say whether Algeria was ready to mediate but diplomats based in the Algiers said there could be little doubt it was already heavily involved.

"Don't let them fool you, they will be in there somewhere. They always are. That's what they are good at. They are highly skilled negotiators and have a habit of inserting their diplomats everywhere," one Western diplomat said.

The government has cultivated its non-aligned image in world forums and is proud to be one of the few countries acceptable to virtually every side.

Cyprus handled crisis skilfully

(Continued from Page 1)

hijacked jet at Larnaca.

In 1978, Egyptian troops sent by the then President Anwar Sadat were involved in a bloody runway shoot-out with Cypriot National Guardsmen. Fifteen Egyptians were killed.

A government source said the hijackers agreed to the deal on the understanding they would be allowed to disappear quietly in Algeria after releasing their captives.

The hijackers, allowed to keep some hostages as insurance, would at least temporarily put in abeyance their demand that Kuwait release 17 jailed Arab militants.

Kuwait, which had previously criticised Iran for allowing the hijackers more fuel, expressed satisfaction with the Cypriot's handling of the crisis.

Purely

The Cypriot government said today it had allowed the hijacked Kuwaiti jumbo jet to land at Larnaca international airport on Friday night "for purely humanitarian reasons" and that all its steps were aimed at saving the lives of the hostages on board the airliner, the Cypriot news agency reported.

In a statement Fantis said the government expressed deep regret over the killing of two hostages by the hijackers at Larnaca.



Algerian negotiator El Hadi Khediri talks with hijackers on a Kuwaiti airliner which landed in Algiers yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

More recently Algeria has been used as a channel to Iran — with whom it has full diplomatic relations — in efforts to negotiate a ceasefire in the Gulf war with Iraq, and it has also renewed efforts to free hostages held in Lebanon.

Diplomats in Paris say Algeria has played an active role on behalf of France in trying to release three French hostages in Lebanon, and negotiations were close to success when the Kuwaiti airliner was hijacked.

But in the latest crisis Algeria will be aware of the international criticism that can also follow attempts at mediation.

Captives

It was roundly attacked in 1975 over the kidnapping by six pro-Palestinian guerrillas of 10 Opec oil ministers in Vienna. The kidnappers flew to Algeria,

released their captives and were allowed to go free.

Algeria said it had acted on humanitarian grounds and out of respect for the will of the governments involved.

Also, in 1977, Algeria was embroiled in controversy when five Japanese Red Army guerrillas hijacked an airliner to Bangladesh and obtained the release by Japan of six other guerrillas.

The hijackers eventually landed in Algiers after a five-day saga stretching half around the world. The remaining hostages were freed and the guerrillas driven away. Nothing has since been heard of them of the \$6 million ransom paid by Japan.

Khediri was appointed Interior Minister in June 1987 after serving as chief of state security for 10 years.



Ramezhan Mohammad shows his US passport in his Larnaca hospital room.

became a US citizen in 1978 but retained his Egyptian citizenship, kept quiet.

He said he had been living in the United States for the last eight months. The Cairo-born bachelor said he was returning from a trip to Sydney when the hijack occurred.

He was among 12 passengers and crew released late last night in exchange for fuel to fly to Algiers.

Bahraini probe

MANAMA, April 13. (Kuna): Bahrain's Interior Ministry is trying to find out the actual nationalities of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Gulf News Agency last night quoted a source in the Bahraini Interior Ministry as saying that they believe that all hijackers are carrying forged passports.

Pilot thanks Larnaca

LARNACA, Cyprus, April 13. (Reuters): "From all the crew and passengers, we thank you for your hospitality," the pilot of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner radioed as it pulled steeply away from Larnaca today.

"We hope to see you again," Sobhi Naim Youssef ended, after five days on the tarmac at sun-baked Larnaca airport where hijackers shot dead two passengers and repeatedly reported beating hostages to press a demand for fuel.

There was no reply from Larnaca airport controllers. Enough had apparently been said.

Control

The last radio exchanges between Larnaca control tower and flight KU 422 before it began the third leg of its hijack odyssey displayed its crew's professionalism and how much they had retained their self respect through eight days of terror.

"What identification will you use on route?" asked Larnaca control at eight minutes past midnight (2108 GMT on Tuesday) as fuel was pumped into the Boeing 747 after 12 hostages were set free.

Only hours earlier, the gunmen ordered KU 422's call sign changed to "the plane of the great martyrs." But the hijackers returned use of the radio to the crew to prepare for the flight to Algiers.

"I think everybody knows about it — KU 422," replied the flight engineer. Controllers reverted to calling up Kuwait 422.

'Planes safer than cars'

SOBHI Naim Youssef, the Iraqi pilot of flight KU 422 used to tell his family and passengers flying was safer than driving a car.

"It was like a proverb for him," said his daughter Jenny, 22, in a telephone interview. "He used it to calm down people who went aboard the plane."

With her mother and two brothers, Jenny has been following the hijacking as the plane went first to Iran, then Cyprus and now Algeria.

They have been in touch with Youssef's daughter Nora, who is at school in London "day and night," she said.

In their home, two televisions and a radio have been on around the clock to keep track of the latest news. They read every available newspaper.

What is her father like? "He is a very cool person, very gentle. He's very caring," said Jenny.

About four days ago, the pilot radioed the operations room at Kuwait Airways, where Youssef's pilot son Laith works.

"He said, give my regards to Laith and the family," Jenny said. That is the only direct message they have received.

His wife Sonia, 46, said she has not heard his voice in monitored conversations between the plane and the control tower.

"I hear him at night when I sleep," she added.

Circling over Beirut on Friday, Youssef pleaded for the lives of those on board the plane as the hijackers threatened to force KU 422 to crash.

Sewn back

COIMBRA, Portugal, April 13. (Reuters): Surgeons stitched back a 34-year-old gardener's penis after it was sliced off by a hedge trimmer, a hospital spokesman said today.



The hijacked Kuwait Airways jet arrives in Algiers on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)



The hijacked Kuwait Airways jet arrives in Algiers on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shevardnadze to visit Middle East

AMMAN, April 13. (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will visit the Middle East soon, the Soviet Embassy said today.

A spokeswoman said he would come to the region, but gave no details of his itinerary.

The independent Al-Dustour newspaper quoted Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zinchuk as saying Shevardnadze would bring no specific new Middle East peace initiative with him.

A visit by Shevardnadze, the first to Jordan by a Soviet foreign minister, would follow an official visit to Moscow by King Hussein in December and would set the seal on a marked improvement in Soviet-Jordanian ties over the past few years.

"Shevardnadze will visit the region to coordinate bilateral stands on regional issues and develop further cooperation," Al Dustour quoted Zinchuk as saying.

Proposing

"This visit has no link with proposing a new Soviet initiative," the envoy said.

Jordanian officials had no word on the Soviet minister's visit or on reports that US Secretary of State George Shultz might return to the Middle East to work on his peace initiative after meeting Shevardnadze in Moscow on April 21.

A Foreign Ministry official indicated that Jordan would welcome talks with either man. "Our doors are open," he said.

Baghdad repulses Iranian offensive

NICOSIA, April 13. (AP): Iraq said today its troops repulsed an Iranian offensive in Kurdistan province, and missiles batteries fired three long-range rockets into Tehran.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said Iraqi troops launched a series of counterattacks last night seeking to recapture the territory they lost in the north-eastern Iraqi province.

The Iraqi News Agency said two long-range missiles were fired simultaneously into Tehran at 12:20 pm (0820 GMT). A third was fired at 2:30 pm (1030 GMT).

The Iranian agency said four civilians were killed and several wounded in the first barrage.

Range

Iraq says it has fired 123 missiles into the Iranian capital since the latest round of the so-called "war of the cities" flared on Feb 29.

Tehran Radio said Iran fired two short range missiles at the town of Al Amarah in southern Iraq in retaliation for the latest

Iraqi attacks.

It also said Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi troop concentrations in the northern province of Sulaymaniyah.

Reporting on the land offensive, the Iraqi agency said the Iranians "could not seize a single inch of Iraqi territory."

"The situation settled in favour of the Iraqi forces at 6:35 pm (1435 GMT Tuesday) after 60 hours of unabated fighting." The Iraqi troops killed or wounded "thousands" of Iranians, "wiping out four entire brigades," it added.

In New York, Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister told UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he saw no prospect of the nearly eight-year-old war coming to an end while Iraq refused to accept a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Iran dismissed the resolution as letting Iraq off the hook for its "crimes," and demanded war reparations as well as an apology from Iraq before agreeing to participate in peace talks.

Lightweight telephone

TOKYO, April 13. (Kuna): A new light portable telephone, usable throughout Japan, is selling like hot cake and gaining popularity despite its high cost, a spokesman for Japan Telephone Telegraph Corporation (NTT) said today.

He said this model, increasingly in demand, especially among

politicians, journalists and businessmen, is an improved version based on models designed to be installed in automobiles.

The new model weighs 700 grammes, compared with the three kilogramme weight of the original model and measures 18-by-7-by-4 centimetres the spokesman added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air crash

JOHANNESBURG, April 13. (Reuters): The pilot of a veteran DC-3 aircraft reported fire on board before the plane smashed into a field, killing all 23 passengers and crew in South Africa's second air crash in six weeks, an official said today.

The twin-engine aircraft was taking leading South African jockeys, trainers and horse racing officials to a race meeting near Johannesburg when it crashed last night near the railway town of Henneman 250 km (155 miles) southwest of here.

Bodies and wreckage, including the jockey's riding equipment, were strewn over a wide area. Witnesses said the gruesome scene was lit by burning maize set alight by the crash and a subsequent explosion.

Near miss

LONDON, April 13. (Reuters): Two British airlines carrying more than 200 people came close to colliding on the runway at London's Gatwick Airport, airport officials said today.

A British Airways Boeing 737 bound for Rhodes was about to taxi across the runway last night when controllers realised it was on collision course with a British Island Airways BAC-111 arriving from Venice.

They alerted the 737's pilot and he swung away to avoid a collision, leaving his plane's wheels embedded in mud at the side of the runway. There were no injuries.

Egypt condemns Israel

CAIRO, April 13, (AP): Egypt charged today that by deporting eight Palestinians this week, Israel committed an arbitrary act that violates international conventions.

"Egypt strongly condemns the expulsion by Israeli occupation authorities of eight Palestinians from their land," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement.

The Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza were deported to Lebanon on Monday. Last January, the deportation of four West Bank Palestinians to Lebanon triggered a wave of international protests, including one from Egypt.

Violation
Egypt is the only Arab country linked by peace treaty with the Jewish state.

The spokesman, who could not be named under Foreign Ministry rules, said: "It is truly regrettable that Israel should resort to such arbitrary measures eliciting worldwide condemnation. And this at a time when there is a growing need to create a suitable climate for efforts to reach a just and peaceful settlement in the region."

Liz opens anti-AIDS campaign

TOKYO, April 13, (Reuters): Actress and anti-AIDS campaigner Elizabeth Taylor today called on Japan's business elite to open their hearts and wallets to help stop the killer disease.

The 200 guests at a dinner she hosted, including many of the business elite, have helped make Japan one of the world's richest countries, were asked to contribute to a new fund for AIDS research.

Several have already pledged \$100,000 each, said one organizer.

Taylor, who is the chairwoman of the US Foundation for AIDS Research, called on Japan to give as much as possible to prevent the disease, which destroys the body's ability to fight infection.

"The people of the world look to Japan for leadership in so many areas," she said.

"New York AIDS fund raiser Elizabeth Kummerfield said the newly established Japan Foundation for AIDS Research hopes to raise 400 million yen (\$ three million) before the end of the year.

"Japan has two kinds of wealth, economic and in medical research," Kummerfield said.

"It has the power to assume leadership in really eradicating AIDS."

In advance of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan

Rebels control key roads

ISLAMABAD, April 13, (UPI): Afghan mujahideen have gained control of several key roads in Afghanistan in advance of a Soviet withdrawal, frustrating troop movements by the Kabul government, Western diplomats reported.

The Pakistan-based diplomats, who hold weekly briefings on the grounds they are not identified, said that although the level of fighting in Afghanistan appeared lower and reflected a resolve on both sides of the bloody 8-year-old conflict to preserve ammunition, combat was reported in nearly a third of the nation's provinces.

The guerrillas, who were excluded from the UN-mediated Geneva peace negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, have said they do not recognise the agreement and will continue fighting Soviet troops and the Moscow-installed Afghan regime in Kabul.

More than 450 Soviet armored vehicles, ammunition trucks and tanks were seen on Monday

heading for Logar province just south of Kabul in response to recent rebel rocket attacks and roadside ambushes on Army convoys, the diplomats said.

They said the guerrillas have had total or partial control this month over at least four main roads, including a long stretch between the city of Gardez and the besieged garrison town of Khost near the Pakistan border.

Accord
The Soviet Union is expected to begin withdrawing its 115,000 occupation troops after the signing in Geneva, on Thursday, of a peace agreement by Pakistan, Afghanistan and co-guarantors — the United States and the Soviet Union.

But the guerrillas have vowed to ignore the accord because they were excluded from the UN-sponsored Geneva peace talks and diplomats believe the rebels will try to overthrow the Afghan communist regime once the Soviets have departed.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perilyev said

on Tuesday that Pakistan has agreed to dismantle Afghan rebel bases and camps inside its territory within 30 days of the signing of a peace agreement and before the May 15 start of Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the CIA plans to continue its covert military aid to Afghan rebels through Pakistan despite a UN-sponsored agreement banning Pakistan from interfering in Afghanistan's affairs, according to a newspaper report.

President Ronald Reagan ordered the arms shipments as part of a private arrangement with the Soviet Union that allows the United States and the Soviets to continue supplying arms to combatants, the Chicago Tribune reported today.

The newspaper said the administration plans to outline its version of the arrangement in a document, Secretary of State George Shultz will carry to Geneva on Thursday. He is to sign the accord that calls for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

"We're going to do it (weapon supply) the same way we've done it in the past," an administration official who was not identified told the newspaper. "Pakistan is the conduit, and it will still be."

The agreement to be signed in Geneva prohibits Pakistan from either engaging in aggression against the pro-Soviet government in Kabul or intervening in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The language is widely held to mean Pakistan will not continue to aid or supply the anti-communist rebels, the Tribune said.

But officials said Washington and Moscow reached the informal agreement outside the framework of the Geneva accord whereby each retains the right to supply arms to combatants.

That's where it comes into the winking thing with the Soviet," an unidentified senior official told the Tribune. "We wink at them and they wink at us, and both of us can do what makes us happy."

Sikh priest warns Rajiv government

Shooting inside Golden Temple

TALWANDI SABO, India, April 13, (AP): Sikh militants fired into the air inside the Golden Temple at Amritsar today — a major Sikh holiday — and the temple's chief priest warned the government not to take action against the militant Sikh movement.

Jashir Singh Rode told a gathering of 40,000 Sikhs in this Sikh holy city in the southern Punjab state that "if police enter the Golden Temple, the foundation for a separate state will be laid."

Sikh extremists have been waging a bloody guerrilla war for an independent Sikh homeland since 1982. The entry of police or Army troops into the Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, is considered a desecration.

The rally at the Dardama Sahib Temple in Talwandi Sabo was called to coincide with today's religious holiday,

Baisakhi, which also is a harvest festival. Talwandi Sabo is about 200 kilometres south of Amritsar near the border with neighbouring Haryana state.

Rode, who took over as chief priest after his release from prison last month, had been expected to outline his plan for unifying the splintered Sikh minority. But he gave no specifics in his 15-minute speech.

Merger

Rode did announce the merger of two factions of the All India Sikh Students Federation, which is at the forefront of the militant movement.

"The unified group will protect the community," he said. "I appeal to all groups in the community to unite. We cannot succeed without unity."

Rode is a nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, regarded

as the founder of the militant movement. Bhindranwale was killed during the Indian Army's 1984 raid on the Golden Temple complex, which was aimed at driving militants from the shrine.

Many in the crowd in Talwandi Sabo chanted "Long live Bhindranwale."

Among the speakers were Bhindranwale's father, Joginder Singh, who heads a militant faction of the Akal Dal political party.

In Amritsar, the firing of automatic rifles and other weapons in the Golden Temple complex caused no injuries. But police said the 15-minute burst panicked devotees trying to visit the temple for Baisakhi, the harvest festival and anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh's introduction of the so-called baptism by sword for Sikhs in 1699.

Starving mothers sell their sons

KHARTOUM, April 13, (Reuters): Starving mothers fleeing war, drought and enemy tribesmen in south Sudan are selling their sons to buy the rest of their families a ride to safety, foreign relief officials said today.

They said reports reaching them from Safaha, an area some 900 km southwest of Khartoum, said the mothers were selling their teenage boys to merchants and farmers for up to \$300 (\$67).

"It seems to be a fairly common practice in the area. Some sort of contracts are being drawn stating the name of the boys, their prices and their buyers," one official said.

The officials told Reuters at least 16,000 destitute people, mainly women and children, had arrived at Safaha since January.

An average of 200 arrived daily until three to four weeks ago when the number doubled.

They all belong to the Dinka tribe, which provides the majority of the estimated 40,000 rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), fighting the government since 1983 for southern secession.

"We reckon that some 50,000 people crossed the Bahr Al-Arab River on their way out of Bahr Al-Ghazal (province) since January," one official said.

Li denies split among Chinese leaders

BEIJING, April 13, (Reuters): China's new premier has denied that the nation's leaders were divided over reform policies.

"There are no policy differences between Communist Party Secretary Zhao Ziyang and myself," Li Peng told a rare news conference televised live after the country's parliament closed its annual session.

Appearing before foreign reporters for the first time since last year's meeting of the National People's Congress, Li also denied at length that he had been promoted because of his close relationship with Premier Chou En Lai who died in 1976.

Western diplomats and some Chinese officials say in private that Li, who was brought up by the popular Chou and his wife as an adopted son, has used the connection in an alleged rivalry with Zhao, the party leader.

Foreign media who pitted differences between himself and Zhao were wrong, Li said.

Reform

Dressed in a dark business suit, Li, a 59-year-old Soviet-trained engineer, said his new government would "place reform at the centre of all our undertakings."

Li, who was appointed premier last Saturday after serving as acting premier since November, threw his weight behind Zhao's policy of rapidly developing China's coastal cities as a locomotive for the rest of the country.

Informed Chinese sources and diplomats point to serious differences between Li and Zhao who is seen as more liberal and keen to push the open-door policy at a faster pace.

Earlier today, the 2,900 congress delegates voted on Li's government report and in an unprecedented display of opposition, some voiced objections in public.

Hong Kong delegate Liu Yuzhu criticised the report for condemning the encroachment of "decadent capitalist ideas," noting that capitalist Hong Kong would revert from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

A majority voted by hand in favour of the report, which sets out future policy, but three delegates voted against. Nobody voted against the government's policy document last year.

"Democracy is a gradual process. This session of congress has been characterised by its openness, although it was not totally open. Future sessions will be more open," Li said.

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● Lebanese schoolchildren, wearing white shirts, fly white pigeons at Beirut's Green Line to symbolise peace. (Reuters wirephoto)

Four killed in Bangladesh poll violence

DHAKA, April 13, (Reuters): Rival supporters in Bangladesh's rural elections killed at least four people as they fought with guns and bombs hours before President Hossain Mohammad Ershad lifted a state of emergency.

Police opened fire to disperse violent crowds in at least three polling stations and used tear gas and truncheons on others.

Two deaths were reported from northern Mymensingh district, one from Munshiganj near Dhaka, and another at Satkhira in Chittagong district.

Authorities say more than 150 were killed in the worst carnage of Ershad's six years of power when the rural elections were originally held on Feb 10.

Opposition leaders claim more than 1,000 people died.

Cosmetic
At least 13 people were shot dead by political rivals and police during the March 3 parliamentary elections, according to official figures.

Ershad's Jatiya Party won 251 of 300 parliamentary seats in the election, boycotted by a coalition of 21 opposition parties in a protracted campaign to force Ershad to quit.

Opposition leaders dismissed its lifting as cosmetic and called an eight-hour general strike on April 25 — the 27th in less than five months — when Ershad is expected to open the new parliament.

The lifting of the emergency was announced on state-run television on Tuesday.

Information Minister Mahbubur Rahman said Bangladesh had returned to normal after violence-marred elections on March 3.

"The emergency has not stayed even a day longer than was necessary. It does prove the president's commitment to democracy," he told reporters.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of the opposition Awami League, said Ershad ended the emergency to forestall possible criticism at a meeting of Bangladesh's Western aid donors in Paris on Thursday.

Planning Minister A.K. Khandaker has already left for France where he will ask for \$2.2 billion in aid for the year beginning July.

"It would be ridiculous for him (Ershad) to ask for money while keeping his country under subjugation," Hasina told Reuters.

Israelis kill three commandos

TEL AVIV, April 13, (Reuters): Israeli troops shot dead three commandos trying to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon before dawn today, the Army said.

An Army patrol chased the three gunmen in Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, the Army said. The Israelis suffered no casualties.

Weapons found on the slain commandos included M-16 rifles, shoulder-launched rockets and several hand grenades. The Army said the men intended to take hostages in Israel.

The incident occurred just north of the collective settlement of Kibbutz Dan near where three gunmen were killed last week in another attempt to infiltrate Israel.

Israel and an Israeli-backed Lebanese militia patrol southern Lebanon in a security zone set up by Israel to repulse attacks near the border.

Military officials have warned of an upsurge in attempted border penetrations as commando groups attempt to aid the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One commando was killed and four Israeli soldiers were wounded April 5 during an attempted infiltration through Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The zone is patrolled by some 1,000 Israeli troops and 2,000 Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militiamen.

Ammunition to be detonated in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, April 13, (Reuters): Pakistani authorities said today damaged ammunition from an Army depot that exploded killing 98 people would be set off near Islamabad over the next few days.

People were told to ignore the sound of the explosions, which would be set off at the Bara Kahu military firing range five km from the capital, the Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said.

The ammunition would be destroyed "to avoid public inconvenience and to ensure public safety," the agency said.

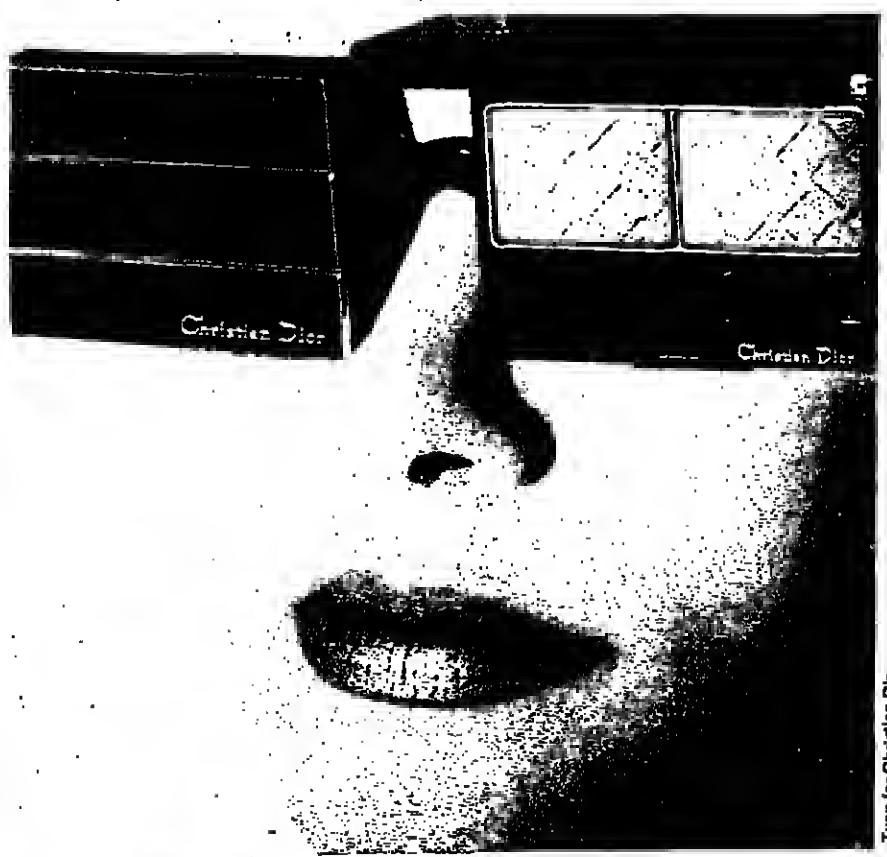
Sunday's blast at the Ojri depot rained missiles and artillery shells on the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in a 15-km radius. About 1,100 people were injured and much property destroyed.

The government has ordered a military inquiry into the cause of the blast and says it does not rule out sabotage.

Meanwhile, medical teams searched neighbourhoods around a detonated ammunition depot today, vaccinating people against cholera and typhoid. The neighbourhoods remained without water and electricity three days after the exploding ordinance killed at least 98 people.

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| • Ikhlis Pharmacy | | • Beauty Corner | 2447890 |

New government in Italy

ROME, April 13, (UPI): Christian Democrat party secretary Ciriaco De Mita formed a new government today, ending Italy's five-week political crisis.

De Mita, 60, presented his list of ministers to President Francesco Cossiga at the Quirinal Palace, formally accepting the mandate the head of state gave him March 16.

De Mita said he will take his government before parliament for the votes of confidence that will confirm it in office next week, going first to the chamber of deputies and later to the senate.

The new government was composed of the same five coalition parties — Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats, Republicans and

Liberals — which has governed Italy, with two brief interruptions, since 1981.

It was very similar to the government outgoing Prime Minister Giovanni Goria, also a Christian Democrat, resigned March 11 after defeat in parliament in voting of the 1988 finance bill.

The new government has a total of 32 ministers, including De Mita, the same number as were in Goria's cabinet.

Veteran Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, 69, and five times former Prime Minister, retained the key post as Foreign Minister he has held since 1983 and Valerio Zanone, the only Liberal Party member in the cabinet, held on to the post of Defence Minister.

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Hospital visiting hours during Ramadan

VISITING hours at hospitals will be from 8 pm until 11.30 pm on weekdays during the holy month of Ramadan.

On Fridays the visiting hours will be from 9 am until 11 am and from 8 pm until 10.30 pm.

Children will be allowed during visiting hours on Mondays and Fridays only, provided they are accompanied by relatives.

The Blood Bank will be open to donors from 8 pm until 11 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, and from 8.30 am until 6 pm throughout the week.

Aid to Eritrea exploited: claim

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea yesterday said in a press release that relief aid operations by international organisations in Eritrea were exploited by the Ethiopian government which recently ordered a halt to these organisations.

The Ethiopian government's aim behind halting the international organisations' operations is to employ all tools of these operations for the interest of the war in Eritrea, according to the front.

The front condemned the international organisations' idle stance in face of the Ethiopian crime.

Iraq to build new tyre plant

BAGHDAD, April 13. (Opecna). A new tyre plant with an initial production capacity of one million a year will be built in the central Iraqi province of Najaf.

When completed, the plant will produce 26 types of tyre used by light and heavy trucks and tractors.

The production capacity of the plant will meet both domestic demand and export.

The project is the second of its kind in Iraq. The first is situated in Diwaniyah province, in the south of the country.

Al Ayoub returns

DAMASCUS, April 13. (Kuna). Kuwait Communication Undersecretary Abdulaziz Al Ayoub left here today for home after heading his country's delegation to the Arab Satellite Organisation (Arabsat) general assembly's 11th session which ended here yesterday.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Damascus Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Jassam and director-general of Syrian telecommunication department Makram Obeid, saw Al Ayoub off at the airport.

Information about Pakistanis

THE Pakistan embassy in Kuwait has arranged for the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation to establish an office to inform Pakistanis about the welfare of their relatives in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Pakistanis in Kuwait should send their inquiries to the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation on telephone nos 4811618 and 4812456, or on telex no. OPF-IPK-5694. They should give the address and telephone numbers of their relatives with their queries.

Wasting of stationery a common practice

WASTING of stationery is common among most students and employees in Kuwait, according to a local newspaper.

It said that 30 years ago a student needed only a few pens and pencils for the whole academic year. Only on special occasions, such as birthdays, would parents give their children a school bag or special stationery items.

Nowadays, students carried school bags that looked like suitcases and were filled with different stationery items, and hundreds of students took a heavy load of books to school.

Easy

Thirty years ago Kuwait had only two stationery shops and they met the market demand. Today there are more than 500 stationery shops with a wide variety of goods all over Kuwait.

In 1961 there was a total of 51,000 students in Kuwait, but by 1986-87, the number had increased to 364,000.

Statistics showed there were 477 establishments selling paper and stationery products in 1984. These establishments had 1,535 workers altogether and the annual total salary was about KD3.1 million. The stationery sold was valued at about KD22 million.

Purchase departments of ministries and other government

People condemn hijacking

Terrorist act deplored

COUNTRIES around the world and residents of Kuwait have condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Libya yesterday condemned the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner as an act of terrorism.

"Libya criticises such terrorist acts which do not serve any goal. Libya has announced this position more than once," a statement issued by the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Kuwait said.

Qatar's Council of Ministers at its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of the Amir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, strongly denounced the hijacking and the killing of two Kuwaitis.

The cabinet affirmed Qatar's full support of measures taken by Kuwait to solve this hideous crime and to the courageous and firm stance of Kuwait against sabotage and blackmail.

Bahrain's Premier Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa denounced the hijacking of the Kuwaiti passenger plane as he spoke by telephone to HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

A statement issued by the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said Malaysia is most concerned over

the plight of passengers and crew held as hostages on the plane and condemned the killing of two passengers.

The National Movement of the Arab Ahwaz gathering of Arabistan said in a statement that the Ahwazis, living in Kuwait, have followed with concern the hijack tragedy of the Kuwaiti jumbo jet and condemned the operation and those who protect and support the hijackers.

Societies

The statement said the Ahwazis pledged themselves and their money to the service of Kuwait and in conclusion charged "a country that is allegedly calling itself Islamic of supporting and helping the air pirates."

Kuwaiti societies continued their condemnation of the hijacking and the savage killing of two innocent hostages.

The women's cultural and social society issued a statement affirming the organisation's "strong denunciation of the seizure of the Kuwaiti jetliner and taking as hostages the sons of this blessed country."

Ugliest

The Kuwaiti lawyers association said it considered the hijack episode the ugliest form of criminal practice and expressed full solidarity and support for the

government's refusal to give in to blackmail and intimidation.

The ambassadors to Kuwait, of Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt have highly praised the firm national stand taken by the Kuwaiti leadership and its refusal to give in to the demands of the hijackers. They lauded the steadfast loyalty of the Kuwaiti people to their leadership, adding that this showed the solidarity of the people.

Undermine

Kuwaiti citizens have condemned the hijacking, which Dr Hassan Ibrahim described as "a criminal attempt to undermine the cohesion of the Kuwaiti people."

He stressed the need for international cooperation in curbing such practices and praised the government's unyielding stand against the hijackers' demands and blackmail attempts.

Grief

Sympathy has been widely expressed for the families of those who have been killed. Farid Mishari Al Ojail, a senior National Housing Authority official expressed his grief over the killing of innocent passengers and denounced the act, saying the hijackers only pretended to be Muslims since Islam never condones the killing of innocent people.

Manufacturers dump prohibited products in Gulf countries

ACCORDING to an article in a Kuwaiti daily, foreign exporters export products prohibited in their own countries and cited cars and cigarettes as examples of such products.

The absence of laws to protect the environment make it possible for car manufacturers in advanced countries to export cars without proper pollution control devices installed, the article claimed.

According to the article Gulf Cooperation Council states import 90 per cent of their consumer goods which reached \$110 billion in 1986. Imports come from more than 100 countries

throughout the world.

The article said that GCC states have begun to assume more responsibility for these imports, especially drugs and foodstuffs, but officials need to take further action to control the quality of goods imported.

Questions were raised in the article as to the benefit of the Road Safety Society in Kuwait, claiming the vehicle rather than the driver was the main reason for accidents because it does not meet required technical specifications.

The article also questioned the value of the environmental safety society in a country that allowed

cars on the road without any pollution control devices.

The deputy head of quality control at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Gai Hassan said that GCC markets received tens of thousands of items from around the world which made it difficult to place specifications on all of them.

He added that the establishment of the GCC Measurements and Specifications Authority was intended to unify specifications for items that are imported by all GCC states. He said the most important contribution of the authority was the unified specifications for imported cars.



● The Police Officers Training Institute held its second seminar on Diplomatic Immunity and Police Power yesterday. Speakers included Dr Mahmoud Maher, Dr Hejazi Jumah from the Police College and the Advisor at Kuwait's Foreign Ministry's Legal Department Farouq Al Nouri. The seminar was opened by the Director-General of the Police College Abdullah Al Roumi (centre) in which he introduced the speakers.

Adan health area marks World Health Day

AL ADAN health area celebrated World Health Day and Health Week on Tuesday under the auspices of the HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

The celebration, which was held at Hadeyah Kindergarten, began with playing of the national anthem and recital of verses from the Holy Quran.

It was attended by the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, and many officials.

The head of foreign medical services, Dr Nazem Al Agha, made a speech in which he praised the progress of medical services in Kuwait, attributing this to the continuous support of the state.

The director of Al Adan health area, Dr Salah Al Ateeqi, said the celebrations this year were being held with the theme: "Health for all and all for health," adding this aimed at developing health awareness among the public.

A health exhibition was opened, which will continue for several days.

Punjab University MA Pt II exams

THE Indian Embassy has announced that the MA Pt II examinations of the Punjab University will now be held from April 19 from 6.30 am to 9.30 am, and not from 8 am as announced earlier.

All candidates should report to the embassy at 6.30 am.

Computer trainees graduate

A GRADUATION ceremony was held yesterday for 285 graduates of a computer programming training course held by the Planning Ministry.

The director of the training department, Abdul Latif Al Nami, made a speech during which he said the department had held 44 out of 80 computer programming training courses scheduled for this year. He added that the remaining courses will be completed by June.

He said there were 2,375 computer staff in different government establishments and authorities.

Contaminated foodstuffs removed

KUWAIT'S Public Health Ministry removed foodstuffs imported from Romania and Switzerland from the local market because of radiation contamination from the Soviet nuclear reactor which exploded two years ago.

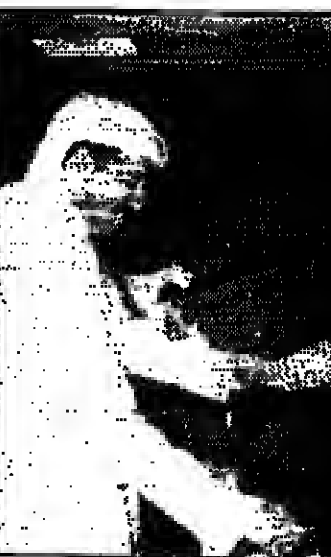
Sources at the ministry said that large quantities of Romanian yellow cheese and Swiss Lindt brand chocolate have been removed from the shelves during the last couple of days.

The ministry is still examining foodstuffs imported from countries that are bordering the Soviet reactor to ensure that they are free of radiation.

Rqobah receives Dutch envoy

KUWAIT'S Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Abdullah Al Rqobah yesterday received at his office Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait, Joseph Francis.

The minister and the ambassador exchanged cordial talks and issues of mutual interest.



Al Nami presents a graduate with his certificate.



President Saddam Hussein (left) greets Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa in Baghdad on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sheikh Khalifa, Saddam review Arab situation

BAGHDAD, April 13. (Kuna). Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa today returned home after concluding an official two-day visit to Iraq.

The Bahraini premier and his accompanying delegation last night reviewed with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein the brotherly relations between Iraq and Bahrain and the current Arab situation.

In the course of his visit, Sheikh Khalifa held a round of talks with deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim and a number of senior Iraqi officials.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted an authoritative source as saying that the talks tackled bilateral ties and means of boosting them, and reviewed developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the current Arab situation.

For his part, Sheikh Khalifa affirmed Arab support to a

peaceful end for the destructive war.

He emphasised the necessity to continue efforts until achieving a final resolution of the war, which sheds Muslim blood and wastes resources.

He expressed appreciation of the Iraqi stance and its positive response for peaceful calls, and hoped for that Iraq would soon reciprocate and accept Security Council resolution 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war.

He praised the Iraqi stance for unifying Arab ranks and bypassing disputes.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Khalifa received the Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nasif Jassam and reviewed bilateral relations in various fields particularly in informational and cultural fields.

They also exchanged views on the Gulf region, Arab and international issues.

Seminar for solidarity with Palestinian uprising

SANAA, April 13. (Kuna). Participants in the international seminar for solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising praised here today the ongoing popular revolt inside occupied Palestine.

In a statement issued following a three-day deliberations, the conferees affirmed that this uprising gains more support and attracts world attention everyday.

Participants in this seminar, which was organised by the Council of Peace and Solidarity of the Yemen Arab Republic, also affirmed in their final statement that the Palestinian upheaval against the Israeli occupation has again made the Palestinian cause the world's main concern and has re-asserted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the sole legitimate representative of the

Palestinian people.

The continuation of this uprising, the statement read, calls on the world's democratic forces to extend more support to this heroic event.

The statement called on all to continue extending material support to the Palestinian revolt and urged Arab governments and establishments to allocate portion of their budgets for this purpose until victory is achieved.

The conferees also condemned the atrocious practices of Israeli forces against the Palestinians in the occupied lands.

In conclusion, the participants urged Yemeni writers and philosophers to hold a seminar in Sana'a on June 11 to 14 of 1988 in support of the uprising of the Palestinian people.

The international seminar grouped several figures from different parts of the world.

Plan to unify textbooks

MOHAMMED Abdullah Al Sane, the director of the Arab Educational Research Centre for Gulf Countries, said the unification of the Gulf states' textbooks was progressing as planned.

Specific steps are being followed which include editing the textbooks, using them in a few experimental schools and then evaluating the results.

Al Sane said that the centre had distributed science textbooks for first and second primary grades and had been

received with interest and encouragement.

The unified science textbooks include several additions to enhance educational strategies and to aid parents in helping their children at home.

Al Sane said the schools had reported favourable results in using the textbooks and some member states had already planned for full distribution.

Arafat arrives in Sanaa

SANAA, April 13. (Kuna). PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived here late last night for talks with Yemeni officials.

In an arrival statement here, Arafat said he will hold talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh over developments in the region and the unabated Palestinian uprising.

Arafat arrived from Kuwait where he took part in the meetings of the Bureau of the Fifth Islamic Summit.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Call for punishing hijackers

KUWAITI dailies yesterday affirmed that the Kuwaiti people do not accept humiliation, and called for punishing the hijackers who held hostage the unarmed civilians and killed two innocent people on board the Kuwaiti hijacked airliner.

Al Anbaa said that the release of some of the hostages Tuesday night did not mean that the ugly ordeal has ended, noting that the issue is smeared with innocent blood.

The paper editorially affirmed that the barbaric skyjack should not be forgotten as a passing episode, or as a sad event, but "our policy should be firm and decisive towards the terrorists, those behind them, and all parties which are involved in the hijack."

It emphasised that "we are a kind of people who do not and will not accept humiliation, and will not forgive those who dared to hurt us, especially when it comes from a number of cowardly criminals."

Al Qabas said that Kuwait with its limited potential has managed to stand fast before those devils and did not divert a fraction, from its principles and commitments, and maintained its credibility and respect.

The daily, while congratulating the release of twelve passengers, hoped for the rest, similar safety.

The paper questioned the role of the civilised forces toward the incident and said "what have they done in combatting terrorism which is imposed on the innocent people everywhere and at any time."

The paper referred to the hijackers' intention to differentiate between a Kuwaiti and another, and to sow differences in lines of the people.

Hailing Kuwait's policy, the daily said that Kuwait has succeeded in handling the tragedy with wisdom and without giving in to any demands which forced the hijackers to release some of the innocent hostages.

Al Rai Al Aam commented on the Kuwaiti government stance in dealing with the hijack, saying that such stance deserved appreciation and admiration.

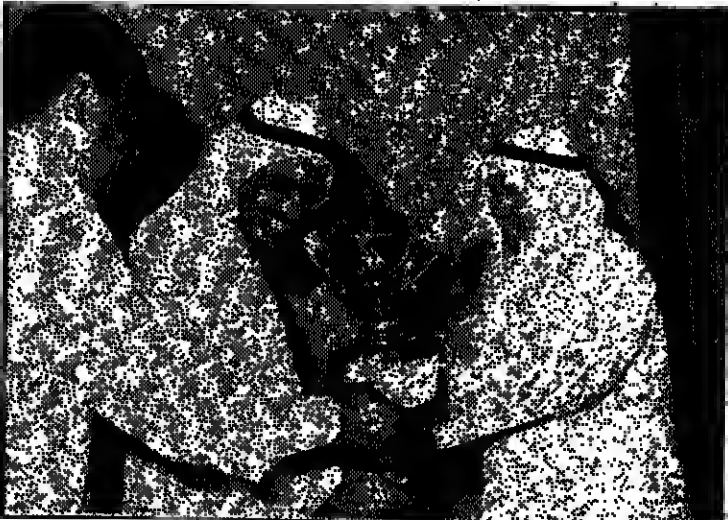
The paper added that the hijack proved once again that the government maintains an excellent ability in dealing with emergencies.

The daily urged a continued strict and firm stand with the hijackers and added that no leniency or sympathy should be shown to those criminals.

Saying that a link existed between the hijackers and Iran, Al Rai Al Aam noted, that it was clear that the plot has been planned in harmony between both parties.



● Cash prizes, donated by HH the Amir, were presented to the winners of the home garden annual competition at the Hubara Centre in Ahmadi recently. Kuwait Oil Company's Chairman Abdul Malik Al Gharaballi presented trophies to the winners in addition to the cash prizes which were presented by Abdul Karim Al Shawa. The winners are pictured with Gharaballi and Shawa (above), and one of the winners is presented with a cup by Al Gharaballi (below).



Lecture on eating habits

A Unicef expert, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Squair, speaking at a lecture at the Faiha College, said that people should eat less during Ramadan since they were less active. He added that people buy larger amounts of food and spend more time preparing meals during this holy month than at other times.

The lecture, organised by the trainees and student affairs office at the Health Science College,

focused on the observance of Ramadan.

Dr Al Squair said that there were misunderstandings about the philosophy of fasting which resulted in the wrong eating habits during Ramadan.

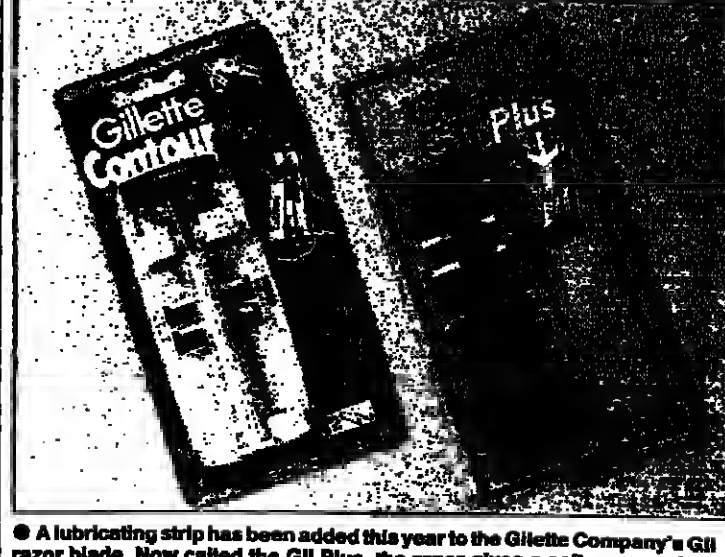
Obituary



Filomena Coelho

Expired on 13-4-1988 at Bombay

Wife of Castano, mother of Cosma/Carol/Soverina/Pascoal, sister of Jerry/Matilde/Francolina.



● A lubricating strip has been added this year to the Gillette Company's Gil razor blade. Now called the Gil Plus, the razor gives a softer, smoother, more comfortable shave because of the lubricating strip. Gillette first introduced the lubricating strip in 1986 on its Contour Plus blades.



Table Talk

BY DINAH

WITH dust storms and 120 degree summer temperatures, Kuwait hardly has the climate for outdoor pavement cafes. The Meridian Hotel has recently solved this problem by setting up an indoor boulevard cafe in the air-conditioned comfort of the Salhiyah Complex. Located right in the heart of town, close to shops and underground parking, the Al Waha Palace Restaurant is well-situated for

shoppers to rest their weary feet or as a meeting place for friends. Secluded off from the shopping mall by boxes of miniature palms and plants, the Al Waha offers a private corner to watch the world go by while enjoying anything from a coffee or simple snack to a full three course meal.

You can either order from the menu which offers a range of sandwiches from 400 fils, shawarma, kebabs and hamburgers; order one of the daily special hot dishes; or indulge in a delicious slice of gateau. We decided to try a full three course luncheon and began at the salad bar with its choice of about a dozen different salads. The star of the show was definitely the seafood salad — fish, crab, onions and capers in a light, thousand island dressing. There was also an interesting prawn, celery and cheese mix-

ture and a cold ratatouille of courgettes, tomatoes, onions and green peppers. All of the salads, which included old favourites such as coleslaw and mezzeh dishes like hummus and tabouleh, were very fresh and tasty. Hot khubz was served at the table.

Main course

Two different hot main course dishes are offered daily. When we ate there the specialties of the day were either paella or meat stew. The paella was very attractively garnished with salad and frozen vegetables, although the latter were rather tasteless. The dish consisted of a generous helping of saffron rice topped with prawns, mussels, squid, hamour, lobster and veal sausages. It made a very filling meal but was a little too dry for my taste.

For dessert we chose Black Forest cherry tart — fairly light slices of chocolate sponge cake sandwiched together with fresh whipped cream and decorated with cherries. It made a refreshing contrast to all those synthetic gateaux filled with artificial cream that you find in so many hotel buffets.

A variety of drinks is available at the Al Waha including milk shakes, hot chocolate, different types of coffee and fruit juices. Including two fruit juices, water and cappuccino coffees, our total bill came to KD19 which is slightly expensive when compared to a hotel buffet where the range of dishes is much wider. The quality of a meal there depends very much on what daily specials are being served. However it would be possible to eat an economically priced snack at the Al Waha and the quality of the food and

ingredients is consistently excellent.

Although the noise of the nearby waterfall made it difficult to attract the waiter's attention, the service was good and the head waiter in particular was very welcoming and helpful in describing the daily specials. Our main criticism is that the tables are much too small, although the seats are comfortable. We would also have preferred a crust of both salt and pepper rather than just two pots of pepper!

RESTAURANT: Al Waha
TYPE: Meridian cafe in Salhiyah Mall
MEAL: Three course luncheon
PRICE: KD19
Star rating (out of five): 4.0
FOOD: ★★ ★★
SERVICE: ★★ ★★
ATMOSPHERE: ★★ ★★
VALUE FOR MONEY: ★★ ★★

An indoor pavement cafe

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A feature film entitled *Glo City* will be shown on April 16 and 17, 6.30 pm. It deals with several different stories: corruption, the IRA, personal relationships and censorship. Gleoda Jackson and Jon Finch star in this film.

Admission is free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 251-5512.

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LETTERS & EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

DILIGENCE is the mother of good fortune — Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish novelist (1547-1616).

Afghan rebel divisions sharpen

By Robert Mahoney

PESHAWAR, Pakistan. (Reuters): A group of Afghan rebels recently sent several loads of weapons across the Pakistani border in a secret dump in Afghanistan, according to intelligence reports.

The guns are not meant to be fired at Russians.

They are for the power struggle which is likely to follow when the Kremlin pulls its 115,000 soldiers out of a nine-year war which has killed probably one million Afghans and cost Moscow dear in international prestige.

That the seven-party guerrilla alliance is divided is no secret. It is the depth of the divisions which is becoming known as the rebels' political leaders manoeuvre for power ahead of the Soviet troop withdrawal.

The image of bearded young men in woollen caps taking on the armoured might of a superpower with just a rifle won the alliance sympathy and, more important, arms from the United States and conservative Arab states.

"Fighting the Soviets, the mujahedeen (Islamic warriors) were able to paper over the cracks... now, with Geneva and a Soviet withdrawal, the paper's coming off," said an Afghan analyst in Peshawar, the Pakistani town near the Afghan frontier where the guerrillas are based.

The Muslim rebels are not represented at Geneva where Pakistan, backed by Washington, negotiated a settlement through a UN mediator with Kabul and its ally, Moscow.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev confirmed on Friday the promised withdrawal would start on May 15 following the Geneva agreement.

"The prospect of a Soviet withdrawal has sharpened old rivalries and rekindled rows over what form of government would replace the administration of President Najibullah, and who would run it.

In many ways the alliance reflects Afghan society: a patchwork of ethnic groups and tribes overlaid with political, religious, ideological and personal rivalries.

Some of the best commanders with fine fighting and political skills, like Ahmed Shah Massoud who controls the strategic Panjsher Valley are ruled out as national leaders of ethnic groups. Massoud is a Tadjik from the north-east who would be unacceptable in Afghanistan's larger Pashtun tribes.

Talk of disunity and possible civil war after the Soviet withdrawal alarms Pakistan, which fears the three million Afghan refugees who have fled here might not go home.

Harare moves closer to one party-state

By Jerry Gray

HARARE, Zimbabwe. (AP): The merger of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union and the rival Zimbabwe African Peoples Union reunites guerrilla war allies in a new step to create a one-party state.

"We have one Zimbabwe, one nation and one National Army. We will be stronger if we have one party," executive President Robert Mugabe said six years ago after beginning his quest for one-party rule.

Mugabe neared the end of that crusade over the weekend when Zanu ratified a merger agreement that Zanu had endorsed a week earlier. The two parties worked together to oust one of Africa's last colonial governments in 1980 but became rivals under Zimbabwe's multi-party system, one of the few in Africa.

Unity
Some time before the year ends, the Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) will be, by law, the sole political party in this southern African state.

Critics say the decision will turn capitalist Zimbabwe into a Marxist-Leninist socialist state and its parliament into another of Africa's many rubber-stamp legislatures.

Supporters say that will bring unity to one nation on a continent divided by tribal differences, and whose political structures still are too fragile to withstand the rigours of Western-style multi-party politics.

Western and Arab diplomats in Pakistan also are wary about bigbighting rebel divisions which they see as grist to the Soviet mill.

Not only could the alliance split vertically between Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the return of exiled former King Zahir Shah and moderate nationalists who want the 73-year-old ruler to head a new Kabul government. It could also crack horizontally between the Peshawar-based politicians and their field commanders fighting inside Afghanistan.

Diplomats and Afghans say some commanders are disillusioned with the political leadership which derives much of its power from its control of weapons supplies in the west.

US and other foreign arms are channelled through Pakistani agencies which can favour some rebel groups over others with bigger supplies.

"One faction that has done particularly well is the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami (Islamic Party) of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Accuse
Hekmatyar, vilified by his enemies and distrusted even by his allies, got himself elected alliance leader on March 15.

Critics accuse his party of killing rebel rivals inside and outside Afghanistan in an attempt to dominate the alliance.

Hekmatyar, 38, denies the allegations and dismisses talk of disunity. But the accusations persist.

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, leader of the alliance's moderate Afghan National Liberation Front, told Reuters: "In Afghanistan some parties are fighting each other. This is very bad for the future of Afghanistan. If we fight each other now there will be more clashes between the Russians leave."

"Afghan leaders and diplomats say Hekmatyar does not have the grassroots support inside Afghanistan of other fundamentalist party, Jamiat-e-Islami.

But Hezb-e-Islami is authoritarian and tightly-organised. Its strict Islamic ideology sets it apart from the other parties based on tribal ties or charismatic leaders.

Hekmatyar has good relations with the Pakistani military. He was the first to receive Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from the United States despite his virulent public anti-Americanism.

Hekmatyar does not have enough support to be chosen leader by the traditional "jirga" assembly of tribal and religious leaders or by an election, Afghan politicians say.

But the iron-willed leader does have the military and political organisations to make or break many would-be contenders for power in Kabul if Najibullah falls.

The merger does not expand Mugabe's power base to any large extent. He has had his way here politically since white minority-ruled Rhodesia became black-ruled Zimbabwe on April 18, 1980. His party won 57 of parliament's 100 seats in pre-independence elections and since then has increased the number to 85.

Merger will give Mugabe the votes and clout to circumvent and revise a British-drafted constitution that dictated a multi-party system for the first 10 years after independence. The constitution can only be changed with an unanimous vote by parliament.

The new united party will control all but one seat in parliament, that of businessman Goodson Sibhole, the lone representative of a small splinter party that broke from the ruling Zanu.

Sibhole could block the one-party move with a "No" vote but isn't expected to stand up against the combined weight of Zanu and Zapu.

Socialist
A one-party state would give Mugabe, 64, a chance to pursue his goal of creating a socialist state. But it's not certain he will be able to achieve that goal anytime soon.

Marxism has been more rhetoric than reality for the first eight years of Mugabe's rule and Zimbabwe has remained one of Africa's strongest capitalist countries. Whites still control the economy.

Raise children with affection

SIR: I would like to give my opinion about the rapid growth of child abuse in Kuwait.

I totally agree with what Dr N.V. Doraiswamy and Dr Abdullah Rashid said in the story "Child abuse increasing alarmingly." (AT 13/3).

Parents should take note of this and a law should be enacted to check child abuse. Parents should raise their children with proper discipline, care and affection. They should share a little time with them and set a good example by their own behaviour.

I am a housemaid myself with a two-year-old boy to look after. I consider him my own child and I teach him good manners. Yet at this stage parents must come in. They should not entrust everything to maids alone. Parents have an obligation to shower care and

love, for children are sunshine, a treasure and inspiration. What is success without them?
Casmira Villanueva,
Kuwait

Unlucky Goans

SIR: We are grateful to the Arab Times for informing us about the latest Air India schedules.

Goans are indeed unlucky. First, they got a direct flight. Then, it was withdrawn. They were given a baggage storage facility in Goa, only to have it taken away. Now we are again in trouble with the change in flight timings. On the homeward journey, we can't wait for four hours in Bombay.

Please keep us informed about the Goa flights, particularly now that the school holidays are approaching and most Goans will be going home.

S.F. Paes, Safat.

Pedestrian flyover

SIR: Many passengers get off the bus near Holiday Inn and cross the busy Airport Road to reach New Kheitan.

Cars coming down from the nearby flyover speed along very fast. Many people have died on this spot.

I request the concerned authorities to build at this place a pedestrian crossing to avoid loss of human lives. Fencing should also be built. People not using the pedestrian crossing should be punished severely.

Syed Mynudeen,
Kheitan

Bold sponsor

SIR: Congratulations to the sponsor of Kuwait India School for boldly challenging H. C. Das' letter "Munkey

Business." (AT, March 24/25). Any sensible parent knows KIS is not run like other schools, where teachers are hired and fired at the whims of a single person.

Although many letters were published in the Arab Times about the United Indian School, it is a pity that neither of the two board members of that school came out publicly to refute the charges. This clearly shows that they do not deny them. Now it is the turn of the government authorities to take necessary action.

A parent,
Farwana.

Solidarity expressed

SIR: On behalf of the Christian expatriate community in Kuwait, we express our solidarity with all Kuwaitis in

this time of crisis.

We will continue to pray for a speedy end to this terrible hijack drama, the continued safety of the surviving passengers and their prompt return to their loved ones and homelands.

In the meantime, our hearts go out to the families and friends of the hostages, particularly to those of the murder victims.

As residents of Kuwait, we share their pain and concern and will do all we can to ease it.

John M. Levins and
others,
Safat

Don't overdo

SIR: KTV 2 viewers may have noticed the unusually large number of commercials prior to the most popular serial, Falcon Crest.

It seems that television advertising in its international



form — aiming at the maximum audience — has come to Kuwait at last. Now that KTV 2 has achieved its aim, it should not overdo it.

John Flanagan,
Kuwait

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Gorbachev is an enigma to presidential candidates

Candidates tiptoeing around missile treaty

By Norman Cousins

WASHINGTON: So far, the presidential campaign has not focused squarely on American-Soviet relations. The candidates have been tiptoeing around the treaty to cut back on intermediate-range missiles. Even here the big differences are not between the parties but among the Republican candidates. On the larger issue — the nature of the United States relationship with a Gorbachev-led Soviet Union — the silence has been deafening. It is almost as though Mikhail Gorbachev is an enigma that the candidates would prefer not to have to discuss or confront.

Americans seem to react in Gorbachev as though there is a catch; as if at any moment the disguise will drop and the Russian bear will resume his traditional fierceness.

Blunt

Historically, Gorbachev is an advanced expression of post-Stalinist policy that previously reached a high point under Nikita Khrushchev. Many Americans paid so much attention to Khrushchev's style that there was a tendency to bypass or underestimate his policies. The shoe-thumping quality of the man tended to obscure the fundamental changes he sought to bring about — changes that are being reactivated and enlarged by Gorbachev.

I had several extended conversations in 1962 and '63 with Khrushchev during negotiations

seeking the release of two Roman Catholic cardinals from internment in Eastern European countries. Khrushchev was characteristically blunt in discussing the effects of Stalinism. The entire nation, he said, had developed habits of fear; everyone was so fearful of losing his job, to say nothing of losing his head, that initiative went out the window.

"It wasn't surprising to me," Khrushchev said, "that we should have fallen so far short of our production goals. The real surprise was that we were able to produce at all, given the condition of terror that gripped the entire country."

Khrushchev went on to say that his most agonising decision was to go public with his first-hand knowledge of Stalin's tyranny. "I finally decided that the only way this country was going to be able to move forward... was freeing itself of the paralysis that had set in under Stalin. Twice I went before the country in an attempt to tell the truth about Stalin. The second time I spoke for several hours, going into great detail about the murder and torture of many thousands of innocent people. After everything I said, you might imagine that the Russian people would change their memories of this monster. But no, every day I meet otherwise intelligent people who think that Stalin was sane."

Another major element of Khrushchev's programme was the need to secure the Far Eastern boundaries against Chinese pressure. The Chinese had expected that the Soviet Union would



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

return all the territory seized by the czars. Khrushchev felt no compulsion just because of ideological fraternity with the Chinese.

A fixed point in Russian history has been the need to avoid fighting two major enemies at once. Taking geopolitics and history into account, Khrushchev

had no difficulty in identifying China, even under communism, as the primary foe. Hence the intensive effort to improve relations with the United States.

Finally, Khrushchev believed that internal stability required a better quality of life for the Russian people.

All these problems and approaches figured in Khrushchev's objectives. His personal style, however, alienated key members of the Communist Party hierarchy. He was openly critical of party members who couldn't move fast enough. His semantics got in the way of his goals. Even in his dealings with the US, his advocacy of peaceful coexistence was undermined by his colourful "we'll bury you" predictions.

Transfer

Gorbachev has finesse where Khrushchev had flaws. He has the courage of Khrushchev's convictions, but he is also a master in the engineering of consent. Like Khrushchev, he wants to achieve high productivity; he recognises that cutbacks in military spending are necessary for a healthy economy. He is no less wary about Chinese expansionism. He will listen respectfully to Chinese leaders, but is unlikely to give any ground, literally speaking.

The Chinese can be expected to propose the formula that worked so well in the dispute over Hong Kong: Set a date far enough in the future for land transfer so that present leaders need not take the heat when the change occurs. Gorbachev is not

likely to agree to any actual transfer of territory; he will not repudiate the territorial gains of the czars.

The retreat from political absolutism, however, may be the most significant feature of the Gorbachev programme. Curiously, this objective may be the most difficult; the party bureaucracy is not apt to welcome the reforms that go with political liberalisation. But Gorbachev has demonstrated not just an advanced survival capability but a keen anticipatory sense of the consequences of his political moves. This is not to say that he will be able to move forward in a straight line or make it all the way. But he has resolutely embarked on a course that may change the history not just of the USSR but of a large part of the world.

The challenge to the US presidential candidates is to update their approach to and rhetoric about the USSR. If Gorbachev can show results in his new openness toward the US, the benefit to Americans, beyond loosening nuclear tensions, is an opportunity to do something basic and tangible about their own military and economic policies, which are heading for a similar crisis. The Christian Science Monitor News Service

Refugee flood fuels tension between Hungary and Romania

By Colin McIntyre

BUDAPEST. (Reuters): Tension is rising between neighbours Hungary and Romania as Budapest grapples with a flood of ethnic Hungarians from across the border, charging they are being forced out by discrimination and repression.

According to Hungarian officials, some 10,000 Hungarians have fled their Romanian homeland and sought refuge here in the past two years. Emigre sources estimate there are at least as many others in Hungary illegally, having failed to register with the authorities when their tourist visas ran out.

"We can cope with this amount, but if the process accelerates, we'll need to look for another solution," Janos Barabas, a senior Hungarian Communist Party official, told visiting journalists.

The official Hungarian press has reported that "considerable sums" of money had been donated by institutions and individuals in response to a call from the Hungarian Red Cross to help the refugees.

Help

While Hungarian officials say they are not seeking international help, deputy foreign minister Gyula Horn told a news conference recently: "If the International Red Cross offered any help, I think we would accept it."

The refugees are part of Romania's ethnic Hungarian community, one of the largest national minorities in Europe, which is put at 1.7 million by Romania and 2.5 million by emigre groups. Most live in Transylvania, which belonged to Hungary until 1919.

The latest flood, which is putting added strain on Hungary's resources as it strives to find them food, jobs and schooling, has rekindled a dispute that raged openly last year, a rare occurrence between Warsaw Pact members.

In one of the strongest official attacks on a communist ally seen for years, the Hungarian government newspaper Magyar Hirlap

this month accused Romania of seeking to forcibly resettle and eventually assimilate its Hungarians.

"This is flatly against all written and unwritten laws on national rights," the paper said.

Protested

Describing the situation of Romanians as "rapidly deteriorating," the paper went on: "Their forced assimilation, against which both our party and government have protested on several occasions, continues at a forced pace."

Romania denies that it is trying to assimilate the Hungarians, and says they have the same rights as other citizens. Hungarian officials insist their country has no territorial claims on Romania, but feels responsibility and concern for the fate of Hungarians beyond the country's borders.

"As we see it, the Hungarian people living abroad are part of the Hungarian nation," Barabas told reporters recently. "They are an internal issue for Romania, but since they are part of our nation, they are also an internal issue for us."

Horn said that although more than two dozen proposals to improve relations between the two countries were on the table, virtually no negotiations were going on.

"This relationship is not good," he told journalists earlier this month. "We cannot accept it as it is."

Encourage

Barabas said Budapest did not want to encourage Romania's minority to come to Hungary.

"The right to stay in one's native land is a fundamental right. We want Hungarians to be able to stay in Romania, keeping their Hungarian identity."

Some Hungarian officials and emigre groups have expressed the fear that if the most vocal sections of the Hungarian minority leave — most of those who have fled are skilled workers or intellectuals, according to local church sources — the remainder will be quietly assimilated.

"Grass will bend in the wind to survive, and this is dangerous for the inhabitants of Tran-

sylvania," Hungarian poet Sandor Csose said recently.

Some Western diplomats and Hungarian intellectuals believe Romania, under its autocratic leader Nicolae Ceausescu, may be using the minority issue to divert attention from the country's chronic food and energy shortages.

One Romanian exile told Reuters: "The Hungarians are for Romanians who the Jews were for Hitler. Romanians ask: 'Why are we so badly off?' and the reply is: 'It's the Hungarians'."

Karl Kirsly, an ethnic Hungarian who quit the Romanian Communist Party's top policymaking body in 1972 in protest over policy towards the Hungarians, described the community as: "The Romanian Transylvanian Hungarian nation."

In an interview with the Hungarian underground journal Beszelo last year, Kirsly, one of the most outspoken critics of the Romanian government, said Hungarians were denied proper representation at local government level.

Even in areas with clear Hungarian majorities, no more than 20 per cent of middle or senior officials were Hungarians, he said. Meanwhile the government's closure of Hungarian-language schools and universities was destroying the intellectual community, he added.

"We want to live in brotherhood with all the other nations and nationalities on this territory, and accept them for what they are, the way they are now," he said. "But we cannot tolerate that they want to exterminate us as a nation."

Execution

ANGOLA, Louisiana. April 13, (AP): A Guyanese immigrant convicted of killing his girlfriend and four members of her family, including a 4-year-old girl, in a jealous rage was executed early today in Louisiana's electric chair.

The Supreme Court refused to put off the execution of Leslie Lowenfield, 34, shortly after midnight, said a spokesman in Washington.

Ethiopia suffers its worst military reverses since 1977

By Philip Williams

NAIROBI, (UPI): Ethiopia, crippled by famine and poverty, faces its gravest military crisis in 11 years. Northern rebels are driving back government troops on two fronts and apparently inflicting heavy casualties.

Diplomats and relief workers say the Soviet-equipped Ethiopian Army is on the retreat all over northern Tigray and southern Eritrea provinces. Attacks by the two nationalist rebel movements in these provinces are the bloodiest since 1977, when the Eritreans almost drove the government from their war-weary province.

Wars and famines have dictated politics and government changes in Ethiopia throughout the modern history. True to form, the present two-month-old crisis has already deeply influenced the socialist, one-party government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam — Moscow's closest ally in Africa.

Last week, after a sporadic three-year war, and a further eight years of diplomatic and military confrontation, Ethiopia finally made its peace with neighbouring Somalia.

Negotiations

Negotiations had been bumping along with no sign of a breakthrough for two years, during which Somali and Ethiopian troops stiffened by 3,000 Cuban allies occasionally sniped at each other over their border in the disputed Ogaden area of south-west Ethiopia.

It was into the ethnically-Somali Ogaden that Somali tanks rumbled to open the war last time Addis Ababa was reeling in the face of 1977's massive Eritrean advance.

Faced again with a mess in the north which, in some ways, is worse than 1977, analysts believe Ethiopia signed the deal with the Somalis to head off the possibility of another Somali knife in the back.

In 1977-78, the Eritreans seemed poised to sweep every government soldier from the province and achieve their long-

dreamed-of independence. Then internal bickering turned to bloody purges, and the rebels ended up probably killing more of their own number than did Ethiopian government troops.

Last month, the Eritreans again swept south out of their stronghold at Asmara — a bomb-pocked pile of rubble in the highland hills where a single mosque minaret is the only man-made structure to survive the visitations of the Ethiopian Air Force.

Backed by captured Soviet tanks and trucks, captured heavy artillery and mortars and a busy and secure supply line through Sudan's Port Sudan, they punched straight through the Ethiopians and then rolled up governing lines north and west of Asmara, the province's Italianate capital.

The timing was no accident. A month earlier the Tigrayans did the same, knocking over a string of government garrisons north of

their capital at Mekelle, sending Ethiopian troops reeling south. They claimed to have mauled a full five government battalions.

Mengistu, who normally never so much as mentions the two rebellions in public, reacted in unprecedented fashion. He appealed in a major speech for Ethiopian unity and declared a national mobilisation that will pull every reservist back into his 313,000-man Army — the biggest military machine in black Africa.

Meanwhile, the massive famine relief operation to feed 3 million already hungry people hit by drought in the two provinces is paralysed by the fighting and by the buildup for the coming government counter-offensive.

All the roads are closed. Unless the violence stops soon and food moves, there may well be a crisis in which people starve as they did in 1984-85.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1544 — Denmark repudiates its alliance with France.
- 1629 — Peace of Susa ends war between England and France.
- 1672 — Alliance is signed between France and Sweden against Dutch.
- 1834 — Republican uprising in France is crushed by army under Adolphe Thiers.
- 1849 — Hungarian diet proclaims independence with Louis Kossuth as governor-president.
- 1865 — US President Abraham Lincoln is shot by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's theatre in Washington, D.C. and he dies following morning.
- 1890 — Delegates to Washington conference of American states create what is to become Pan American Union.
- 1912 — Liner Titanic strikes iceberg in north Atlantic, and more than 1,500 lives are lost when ship sinks.
- 1931 — King Alfonso flees in Spanish revolution, and Akaala Zamora becomes president of provisional government.
- 1945 — US bombers pound Tokyo and Japan's imperial palace in World War II.
- 1970 — US Apollo 13 spacecraft heads back to earth after moon mission that had to be aborted because of mechanical problems.
- 1972 — Terrorists set off chain of explosions across Northern Ireland, killing several people.
- 1977 — Soviet Union orders its fishing fleet to observe strictly new fishing regulations set by United States off its coasts.
- 1986 — United States carries out air strikes against Libya.
- 1987 — Syrian troops deploy at outskirts of Lebanese port city of Sidon — farthest south they have been since Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Arabic signature

Wealth of alternating impressions

Greece has charms for all seasons

GREECE has something to say for itself all the year round. Winter or summer, it can always stir emotions and there seems to be a wealth of alternating impressions which change in tone and appearance behind the curtain of the seasons. The entire geographical area of Greece very much resembles a picture gallery, spread with small, sensitive portraits.

Snow-white lonely chapels, monasteries whose presence is betrayed by their tall bellfries, gentle slopes of undulating hills, boats seemingly dozing at their moorings along the shores, the sea flashing back its reflection of the sun's rays and villages of every description, each with its distinctive characteristics.

Roaming around Greece is rather like taking a walk through time and history. Ancient monuments and historic sites in all directions of the compass carry one into bygone times. The age-old reminiscences of the land come to life in a special stage setting each Spring. Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Spring finds its summit of glory in Greece. The plains and hillsides become a carpet of wild flowers, some of them common and some very rare but everywhere is colourful harmony.

Poppies sprout among the fallen marble columns of ancient Olympia still echoing the triumphant sounds of the Olympic Games. In the picturesque lanes of the villages on



The island of Skyros. Aboard a yacht or by car one can tour the entire country.

Mt. Pelion, the sun flirts with the wild rose bushes while the noble remains of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi keep an eye, from the top of the hill, on the peaceful olive groves which reflect back their silver foliage from the deep valley below.

The Mega Spilaion monastery and the ancient acropolis of Lindos, on the island of Rhodes, welcome their visitors as they arrive on donkeyback while the Samaria Gorge on the island of Crete does the same for the hardy trekkers who decide to walk its length.

Summer in Greece is the season for cruises, sea sports, sunbathing, artistic events, various festivals, performances of ancient drama and, above all, the islands. Each holds a different surprise for the visitor.

Mykonos, shrouded in white and swept by cool breezes, Skiathos with its silver sandy beaches, Cephalonia with its Makryallos beach, Corfu with its natural beauties, Santorini and Crete with their pre-historic civilisations, Patmos with its religious traditions. Fishing

in Greek waters is not a mere hobby or sport by a way of life. In the fishing villages, the nets are drawn and gathered to the accompaniment of the "song of the trawl". The night-fishing "gri-gri" smacks set out at dusk, in line ahead, each with its powerful sternlamp shining down into the water like a chain of stars.

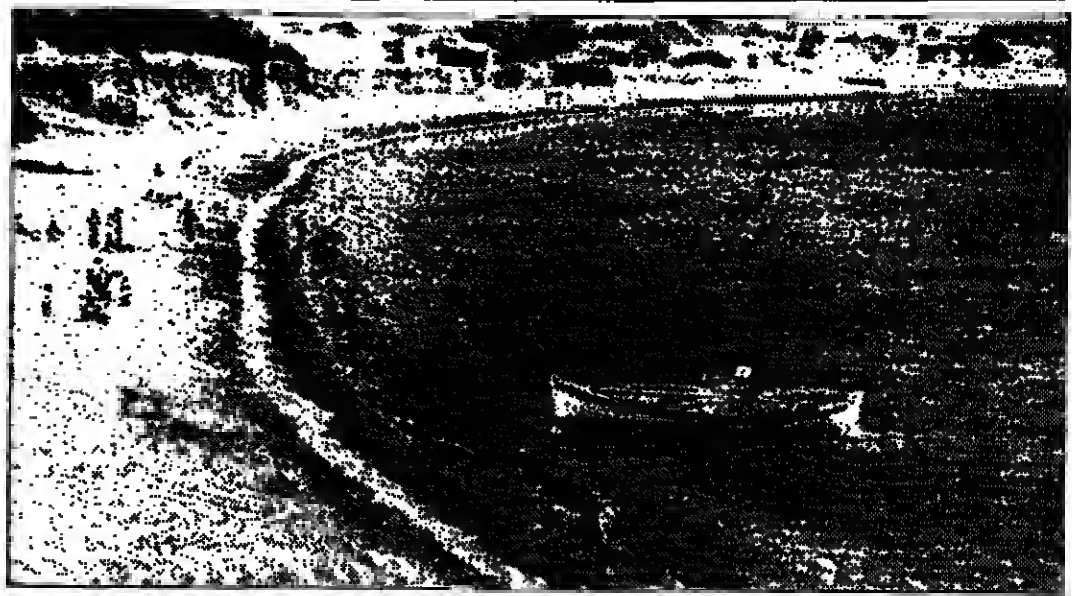
Autumn in Greece is nothing short of spring in a lower key. Aboard a yacht or car, one can tour the entire country accompanied by an invisible wistfulness and a mellow sun, friendly

and hospitable like the people of the countryside.

The same can be said of a stroll at Mystras when one meets the fragrance of the ground after an autumn shower.

Winter itself has two faces. One is smiling and genial, dominating the plains, the lowlands and the islands. Winter bathers have a chance to swim without shivering and the romantics can take long strolls along the shores, combing the beaches for trophies deposited there by the white foam of the waves breaking on the sands.

Winter's other face is out to be trifled with. It is identical with what Christmas cards are meant to convey and can be met on the Katalara and the Vermio heights or heard whistling through the picturesque Metsovo landscape. Its challenging

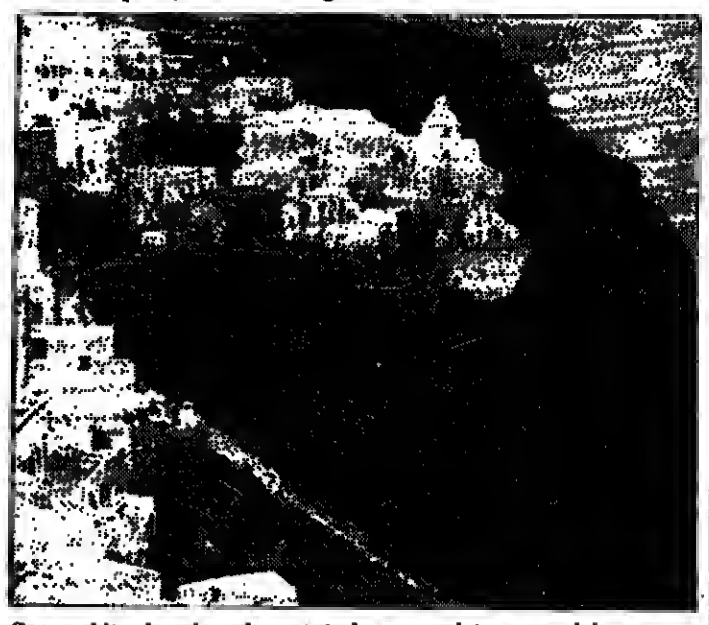


Summer in Greece is the season for cruises, sea sports, and sunbathing.

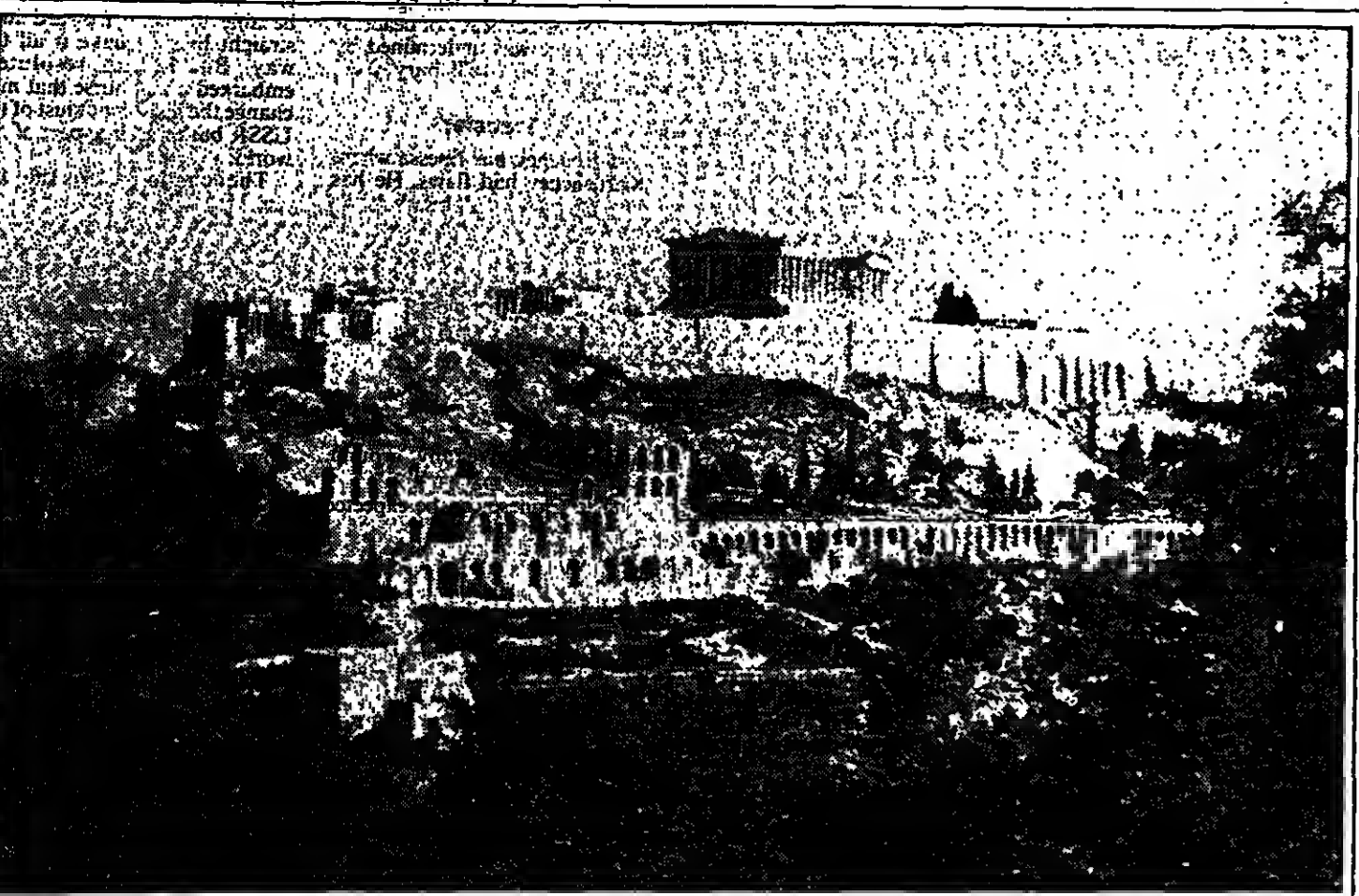
song can be heard on Crete's White Mountains. At Delphi, while the tiers of some seats to the ancient stadium shiver in the cold, Mt. Parnassus dons its white cloak to greet its winter sports friends.



The island of Rhodes is popular among tourists.



Snow-white chapels and monasteries are a picturesque sight on the Greek islands.



The Parthenon overlooking Athens. Apart from the obvious monuments and museums, there are many parts of the city where one can wander undisturbed.

Unexpected delights in Athens

ATHENS gets a bad press for smog, noise, ugliness, indifferent service and the tout-ridden tawdriness of Plaka. Fair charges, but it is also city in which more than a third of the Greek nation manages to lead a reasonably agreeable existence.

Taking a leaf out of their book, and going where the discriminating among them go — which admittedly means out of town to high summer — you turn up unexpected charms.

Apart from the obvious

monuments and museums, which it would be pity to miss, there are still parts of the city where you can wander in undisturbed contemplation of past glories or savour the pleasures of a culture more Levantine than European. The ancient Keramikos cemetery is one of my favourites, where speckled toads croak in the marshy ground, and the pines of Filopapou hill where crocuses bloom in autumn and you look at sunset over the burnished sea

to the islands of Salamis and Aegina.

For the unalloyed delights of shade and running water in mid-summer heat, the National Gardens off Siodagma Square are unsurpassed, with a tiny sylvan cafe near the exit on Irothos Atikou St. Plaka too — though definitely not a place to eat and with the proviso that you keep away from the main commercial streets — has been much improved, dare I say it, by geotification.

Outside Plaka the only remnants of an older village Athens are the streets below the Observatory and the neighbourhoods of Mets and Pangrati behind the Stadium. Mets in particular has retained a number of neo-classical houses with decorative end-tiles, marble balconies and luxuriant courtyards on its steep-stepped streets. It is home to the extravagant mausoleums of the First Cemetery, the equal of Paris's Pere Lachaise.

Mets and Pangrati are also the best central areas for eating, just 15 minutes' walk from Siodagma. Markou Mousourou is the principal street in Mets with several traditional tavernas as well as some new-style bar-restaurants, the most attractive being the highly successful Mets.

There are more tavernas in Arhimidhou St., near Platis Varnava, and off Leoforos Konstantinou round Pafsanion St., including the excellent though more expensive fish taverna, O Anthropos, at Arhelaou 13.

The Levantine character of the city is most visible in the bazaar-like streets between Monastiraki and Omonia Square. The centre is the tec-

ing neo-classical market on Athinas St., where forests of carcasses brush your ears and mounds of mullet and pop-eyed squid glisten on slabs.

On the corner is Finopoulos's stand-up ouzo bar, last of its kind, and a berbalist selling remedies for every affliction from love to constipation, while the food shops are redolent of all the perfumes of Araby. In winter you can even buy hot orchid juice from the great brass kettle of an itinerant vendor.

Half way up the hill concrete gives way to pine and cactus, crowned at the top by a dazzling white chapel, whence on a clear day you see the mountains of the Peloponnese. Immediately to the north is the quarry-jagged ridge of Tourkovouni, where sheep still graze above the classy residences of Psithiko.

North-west, just an hour's bus ride from the city centre, the 1400-metre Mouot Parinitha provides a vast and unexpected wilderness of forest and ravine with marvellous wild flowers and way-marked footpaths.

Less spectacular forays can be made on the single-line metro. At its northern end, in the smart Edwardian hill station of Kifisia, the Goulandres Natural History Museum is a must for anyone interested in Greek wild life, to say nothing of Varso, oldest and greatest of Athenian patisseries, just round the corner.

At the southern end, in addition to ferries, Piraeus has the best antique/junk shops and a huge Sunday morning market near Platis Ipodhamias, plus a string of untouristed ouzeris and seafood tavernas along the front beyond the Zea marina.

By Stuart Rossiter

MACEDONIA has always had a bad press. In antiquity, though not quite barbarians, Macedonians were never quite Greeks, and though Alexander wrote his name large in history, his empire was little more than a nine days' wonder. In modern times the campaigns of 1916 are remembered for ineptitude and dysentery; Salonika shares with the Dardanelles the smell of defeat.

Yet Macedonia is in many ways the liveliest part of Greece. Until 1912 it was a uniquely prosperous province of Turkey-in-Europe, exporting "Turkish" tobacco. With Thrace it boasts five titles of a size only surpassed in the south by Patras, Serres, Drama, Kavalla, Xanthi, and Komotini; and one, Salonika, exceeded by only Athens herself. The university of Salonika considers itself, with some justice, intellectually superior to that of Athens.

If Myceae, Corinth, Sparta, Olympia and Delphi seem to tip the archaeological scales heavily towards the south, they are all over-subscribed. The large northern sites — Pella, Amphipolis, Philippi, Thasos, Samothrace — are relatively deserted. Since the north is wet and cold in winter, it never gets burnt up like the south. The rivers, fed by Bulgarian or Yugoslav snows do not dry up. Spring is green and lush and the hinterland spectacular.

Ironically, it's travellers to Turkey who best know northern Greece, for it lies on the main land route to Istanbul. Indeed I last passed that way myself when returning from Anatolia, and may perhaps be forgiven for mentioning the far end first. Having driven from the Syrian border, I decided to relax a day at the Asir Motel in Alexandroupolis — the springboard for visiting Samothrace with its Sanctuary of the Great Gods.

Between Alexandroupolis and Kavalla the main road touches the sea only at Porto Lago, where the lagoons teem with exotic wading birds. Ancient sites lie on deserted stretches of

Away from the madding crowds in Macedonia

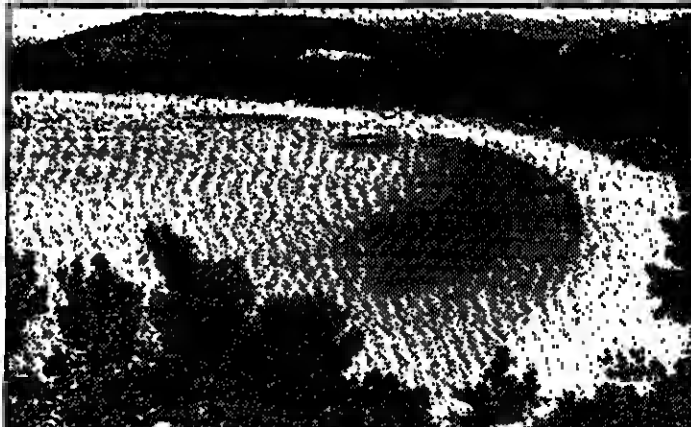
coast. Abdera is easy to find, Maroneia and Mesambria less so, but you'll certainly find a sandy beach from which to bathe. Komotini museum displays objects from the sites and an amazing gold bust of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

Kavalla, big enough to absorb tourists without surrendering its identity, is friendly and central. Though a car helps, here it is not essential. Bus services are frequent and regular. Its car camp, however, outside to the west, backs a splendid beach

and had a very tolerable restaurant. Alternatively, the Galaxy Hotel overlooking the harbour is convenient, comfortable and close to the fish tavernas (though its own food will not drive you out). The old town has Byzantine and Turkish relics; an aqueduct spans the centre which — unless you've been spoiled by Segovia or the Pont du Gard — is impressive; wooded Thasos beckons from the sea.

Nearer to Salonika's international airport, the two western peninsulas of Chalcidice, once deserted and almost inaccessible, are rapidly acquiring grand hotels. Good reports come in also about the Eagle's Palace at the gateway to the Holy Mountain.

On the western side of Sithonia the Carras estates supply a few custom-built resort where the huge open-air theatre is grander than anything since the Romans.



Northern Greece is relatively deserted compared to the popular south, and unexploited by tour operators.

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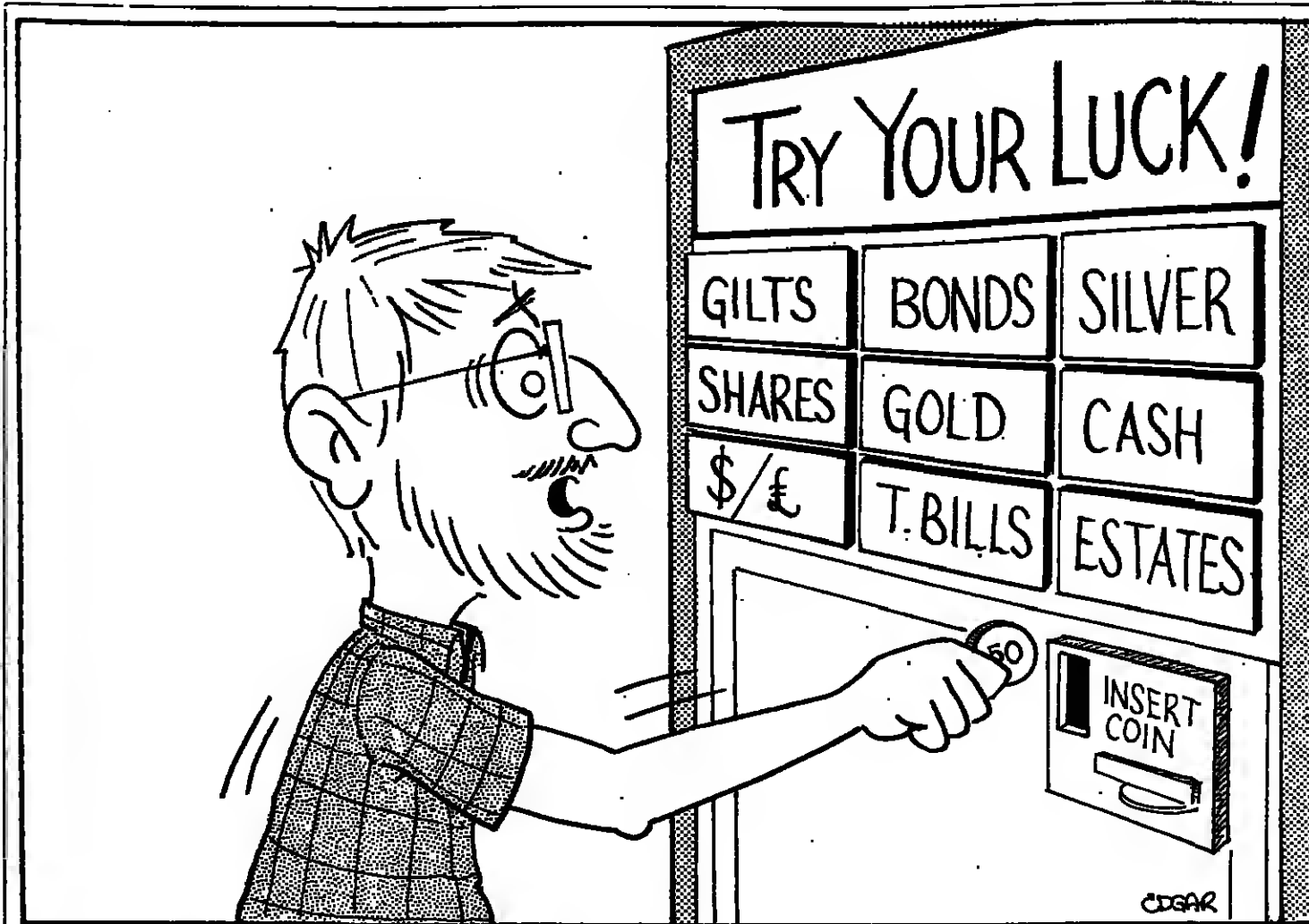
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HUMOUR



I was thinking about money the other day, wondering what to do with my loot now that I have, at last, become a millionaire. I thought of writing to that Midas character, but I don't want to pay good money for units in a unit trust, what nonsense. Did you ever try to spend a unit? How many units does it cost to buy a loaf of bread or a Ferrari? Besides, every time you look at the unit prices they've gone up or down in value. Mind you, money's the same. One week a dinar is worth 500 fils, next week it's worth 517. Where do those extra seventeen fils come from? Where do they go when the pound doesn't need them any more? Is there an enormous bank vault filled with useless fils, just lying around, waiting? The other thing I don't understand is interest. I mean, you put a hundred dinars in the bank and it gets interest, but whose interest? I mean, I could understand if it was a hundred million dinars, plenty of people would be interested in that, but who cares about a hundred?

Bulls & bears for breakfast

By Keith Wells

out of the vault where those extra seventeen superfluous fils are hanging around? Or do they take the hundred fils from somebody else's dinar? Is that why my money doesn't seem to go so far as it used to? Perhaps every dinar I get paid is only worth 900 fils, less the seventeen fils it has declined since last month, that means my dinars are worth only 883 fils, subtract inflation at, say ten per cent,

these experts telling you to invest in this, put your money in that, it all goes over my head. The other day I read a piece about how the best way to save money was to put it into gilts. I ask you! As if I haven't got enough gilt already. I feel guilty every time I look at the bills I haven't paid! Someone else suggested T bills, but I still haven't paid for my coffee yet. Of course, plenty of people

even gold can't decide how much it is worth, what chance have we got? At least we don't have to worry about taxes too much, thank goodness. That's why old Midas keeps recommending those offshore funds, which sound like bundles of banknotes on a rowing boat somewhere out at sea, no wonder they keep sinking! Then there are all those weird financial expressions, like bed and breakfasting your funds. What does that mean? Does a little guy with a bagful of your hard-earned cash trot along to some seedy boarding house and ask them to put it up for the night? Or do the banks have a special dormitory block where they solemnly serve bags of money with coffee, orange juice and a poached egg on toast? Puzzled

The other expression that always puzzled me is the one about the 'bull market' or the 'bear market.' Can't they find human beings to work in these places? How do they ever expect to make money if they leave it up to some grizzly to make all the decisions? Mind you, it's all computerised now, isn't it? You see all these guys in shirtsleeves on television shouting into their phones and waving their hands about, probably trying to keep the bears from stealing their sandwiches. Then, you have to deal with all these brokers, which seems odd. If they are so clumsy, and always breaking things, how can they expect to handle any delicate deals? With the place full of brokers it's no wonder we keep getting stock market smashes!

Confusing

For example, if you get ten per cent interest, does that mean that whoever's paying this interest is only ten per cent interested in the whole thing? What would it take to get them 100 per cent interested, pictures of naked ladies on the bank notes? Then again, if you get ten per cent, that means after a year each dinar is worth one dinar and one hundred fils. But where does that hundred fils come from? Does it somehow leak

Financial matters are very confusing, aren't they? The other day I read a piece about how the best way to save money was to put it in gilts As if I haven't got enough gilt already. I feel guilty every time I look at the bills I haven't paid. Someone else suggested T bills but I haven't paid for my coffee yet.

that's another 100 fils I've lost, but I've been here eleven years, which means if inflation was ten per cent for every one of those years I haven't just lost ten per cent, I've lost 110 per cent, which is one dinar one hundred fils, so subtract that from the 883 and I'm left with every dinar I earn being worth minus 217 fils. No wonder things seem pretty bad. Financial matters are very confusing, aren't they? All

will tell you to put your money into real estate, which is pretty daft since even I am not stupid enough to invest in unreal estate. Then there's gold, nice shiny lumps of heavy yellow metal, yet the price seems to float around like a feather. One week it's worth 500 dollars, next time you look it's 450 dollars and the dollars themselves keep changing from 290 fils to 270 fils, all beyond rhyme and reason. If

WITH the indictments of Ollie North, John Poindexter, Richard Secord and Albert Hakim, people in Washington are now speculating as to how it will all come out. Here are some theories:

President Reagan will pardon Ollie North and John Poindexter because they both worked for him. But he will do nothing for Secord and Hakim because they were not team players. The President will not pardon anybody because they didn't commit any crimes. And even if they did, Reagan was watching old movies and didn't know about it.

Sen. Bob Dole, in one last desperate move for the Republican nomination, will announce that if he is elected President, he will pardon Vice President George Bush.

Bush will retort that his resume shows he doesn't need a pardon because he won Texas. Pat Robertson will proclaim that if he is elected President, he will sign a divine forgiveness order for

The Art Buchwald Column I beg your pardon

the four defendants, which has double the value of a pardon.

It is predicted that Ollie North will pardon his shredding machine and the people who used it without his permission.

Ollie's lawyer will announce that he is calling President Reagan, Prime Minister Shamir and the Ayatollah Khomeini as defence witnesses in the trial.

Gen. Secord's lawyer will ask the Sultan of Brunei to open up a defence fund for his client in a Swiss bank account.

President Reagan will announce he is giving a blanket pardon to Ed Meese. This way the President won't have to be bothered with issuing a new one every day.

Northwest Airlines will announce at the beginning of the trial they will not pardon Poindexter if he

keeps smoking his pipe in the courtroom.

During the trial, the prosecution will ask Hakim where the money is. He will say he doesn't know anything about the money. His only concern in the Contra affair was to see that Ollie North had good fencing for his house.

At some point the Department of Agriculture will be asked to rule if Ollie North's lawyer Brendan Sullivan is a potted plant. If they decide he is, the president will give him a pardon.

The chances of a new Democratic President pardoning the "Gang of Four" are about the same as Nancy Reagan pardoning her stepson Michael Reagan. For this reason most of the defendants are rooting for a Republican to win in 1988, just in case Ronald Reagan doesn't sign their pardons. There is no doubt that

the pardoning will be a big campaign issue. Where you stand will test your patriotism. If you are in favour of a fair trial and a not-guilty verdict from the jury you are a good American.

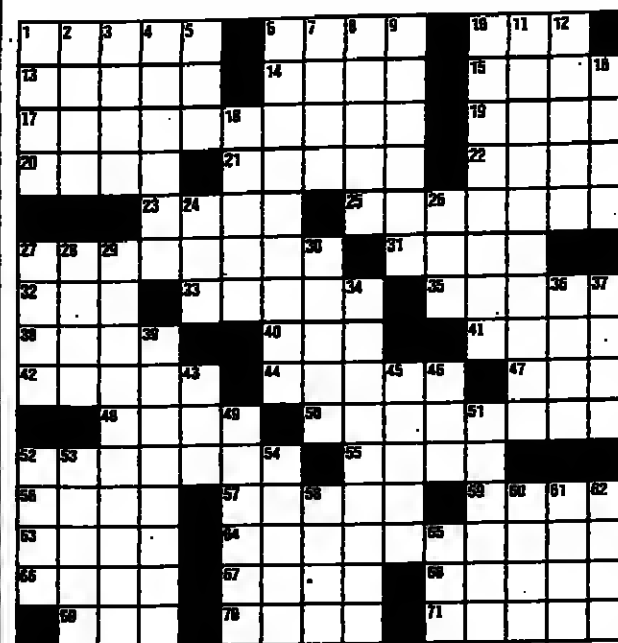
If you pray for a guilty verdict you are stomping on the American flag in your high heels.

The question keeps cropping up as to what happens if the trial drags along and Bush, after being elected President, is called as a witness in the case.

The answer is that Bush, depending on his testimony, might have to pardon himself. While this could have political repercussions it is nothing compared to having Mr. Bush testify what he knew about Iran and when he knew it. Those in the know in Washington have always maintained that if Nixon had paid more attention to pardons than he did to cover-ups, he might never have had to resign.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 seaport
 - 6 House plant
 - 10 Curator's deg.
 - 13 Lamb et al.
 - 14 Flu symptom
 - 15 Diving bell
 - 17 Comply with
 - 19 One of the
 - 20 Wilsons
 - 21 Critic and poet
 - 22 Charles —
 - 23 Jacta — est
 - 24 (The die is cast)
 - 25 Metric foot
 - 26 Disagreement
 - 27 Ruler
 - 31 Hudson's "— Moon"
 - 32 — creek (out of luck)
 - 33 Pry
 - 35 Ancient coin
 - 38 American suffragette
 - 40 — winter of discontent
 - 41 — Rich. III
 - 42 Comforting word
 - 44 Dolphins' home
 - 47 Ran into
 - 48 City on the Truckee
 - 50 Committee
- DOWN**
- 1 Mutt's friend
 - 2 Winglike parts
 - 3 Satiated
 - 4 Enter ranks
 - 5 "— was saying"
 - 6 Aster, for one
 - 7 Sponsorship
 - 8 — the mill
 - 9 E Wisconsin city
 - 10 Happened as by fate
 - 11 Event of 476 A.D.
 - 12 Farewell
 - 16 See 25 Across
 - 18 "— is an
- employees**
- 52 "El Amor Brujo" composer
 - 55 Odin's wife: Var.
 - 56 "When I was —"
 - 57 Draw — on (aim)
 - 59 City on the Rhone
 - 63 Temporary quiet
 - 64 Become smitten
 - 66 At liberty
 - 67 Adjectival ending
 - 68 Apple parts
 - 69 S-shaped curve
 - 70 Charged particles
 - 71 Odd birds
- island"**
- 24 Mentioned previously: Abbr.
 - 26 Fall behind
 - 27 Conduit
 - 28 Colorful fish
 - 29 Cascades
 - 30 Boxing great
 - 34 Stunts for a second banana
 - 36 Declare
 - 37 Bowlers and boaters
 - 39 Pedals
 - 43 Volunteer: Abbr.
 - 45 — Gras
 - 46 — were king —
 - 49 Norway's patron saint
 - 51 — one's knees
 - 52 Surrealist
 - 53 Salvador
 - 54 Baffle
 - 54 Great —, Bahama island
 - 58 Vorve
 - 60 Days of —
 - 61 Again
 - 62 Monster's loch
 - 65 Sgt. for one

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 8
♥ A
♦ K J 6 5
♣ A K Q 4 3

EAST
♠ K 4 2
♥ Q 6 4
♦ A 10 4 3
♣ Q 8

WEST
♠ 7
♥ J 10 8 5 2
♦ A 10 4 3
♣ 10 8 7

SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 6 5 3
♥ K 9 7 3
♦ 9 7 2
♣ Void

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦
There are two words that the prudent bridge writer soon learns to discard from his vocabulary. They are "never" and "always." Use one, and that very day you will come across an exception to the rule.

North-South conducted a reasonable auction to five spades. Note that North cue-bid his heart ace before showing spade support. The one disadvantage of the auction was that it painted a complete picture of the North hand.

Sitting West was Tom Smith of Greenwich, Conn., a top-ranked player and member of the Goren Editorial Board. He knew all about "never" leading away from an ace, but it was obvious that North's distribution was 3-1-4-5 and that if the enemy had a weakness, it was going to be in diamonds. So he committed the unpardonable bridge crime of underleading his ace of diamonds.

As the cards lie, that rated to be the killing lead. If declarer finessed the jack, East would win the queen, return the suit to his partner's ace and ruff the third diamond for a one-trick set.

Now Smith's reputation worked against him. After considerable thought, declarer called for the king from dummy! When that held, he cashed two high clubs for diamond discards and ran the queen of spades. When that also worked, declarer had no trouble making all the tricks.

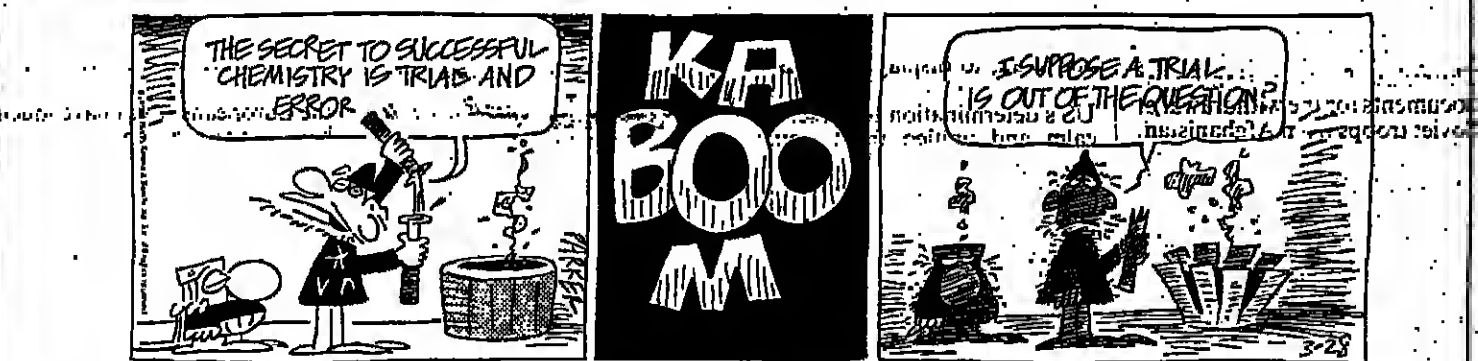
"Nice lead," remarked declarer, as he scored up one trick more than did his counterpart at the other table in the match. The only difference was that there the contract was six spades!



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
AVIARY ALICE ESTE
VOICE CARAPACES
OLDEN ITINERANT
NEAPTIDE ANTS
TETS ISLE
SEVERE OCCIDENT
AGAR BRIAN LOU
MAN ICEBERG IRN
ODE SAVER POLE
ASSESSED BARTER
FUEL PARE
SAFE EOHIPPUS
REPORTERS SALSIA
AVERSIOINS ERIES
PERT SNEE SEERS

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will be able to make some small changes. Make sure you do not do anything to upset the harmony between yourself and your partner. Avoid spending more than you need to. Be flexible.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

If you like to yourself you will find yourself out in the end. You should make sure you keep your eyes firmly on the road when driving. If you expect more than you deserve you will not get it. Be prompt.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

Others will be more in tune with you today. Something you have set out to do will succeed beyond your wildest dreams. Do not take any risks with your health. Be resolute.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

You should not take on more commitments than you have time or energy for. Mars's better influence will help you to make the right decision. You should make sure your partner feels loved and wanted. Be resourceful.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to resolve a problem that has been evading you. You will be able to do better than you had expected. Have the courage of your convictions. Be sincere.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should not expect others to do you too many favours. You will be able to assert yourself but that does not mean making a nuisance of yourself. Take a little more care about your appearance. Be patient.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should try to show a little more determination. Something you have initiated will proceed quite smoothly. If you try to deceive others you will more likely succeed in deceiving yourself. Be cordial.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should make sure you have taken all the elements of the situation properly into account. Do not give up if something you are learning is proving to be more difficult than it seemed at first. Make sure you eat a sensible diet. Be reliable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will not get what you feel you deserve. However, you have raised your hopes too high. You should keep your wits very much about you. Be truthful.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Today in particular you have no time for secondary matters. You would be wrong to jump to conclusions. There is no reason for you to be pessimistic but nor should you be excessively optimistic. Be loyal.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will tend to be a little on the nervous side. If you are in too much of a hurry you are liable not to achieve the standards you have set yourself. There is no time or energy to waste. Be reasonable.

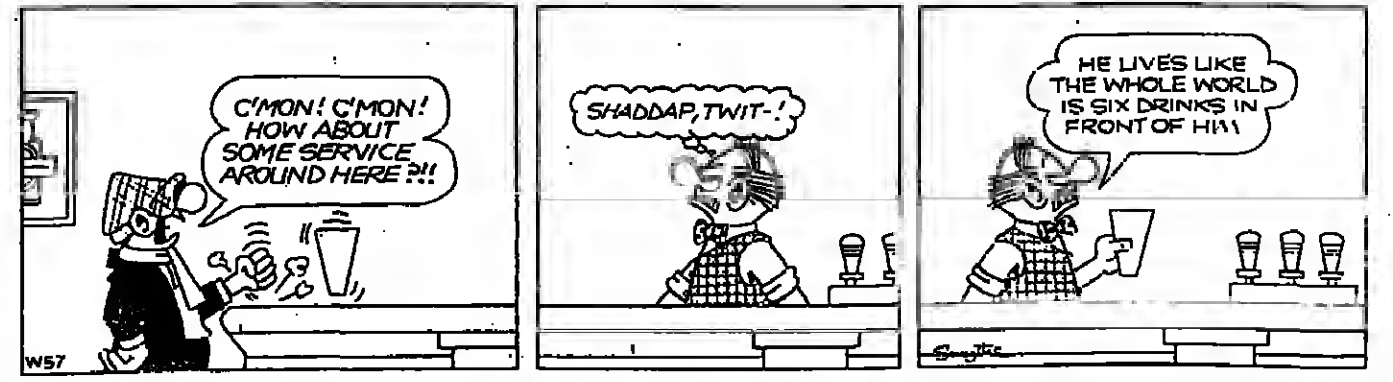


Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

The Moon's better influence will help you to get things right. Do not be afraid of mathematics if it is not as mysterious as it might seem. You will be able to avail yourself of a good opportunity. Be methodical.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Occidental signs venture to produce plastics in Ukraine

MOSCOW, April 13, (Reuters): US businessman Armand Hammer signed a deal today for his Occidental Petroleum to join in building two factories in the Soviet Union to make plastics for an expanding consumer goods market.

The plants would be the first built under a joint venture between the Soviet Union and a US firm, said Aleksander Ustakachinskiy, first deputy minister of the Chemical Industry.

Construction is expected to start next year, following a feasibility study. Building costs are estimated at \$160 to \$200 million, Hammer, Occidental's chairman, said.

He added: "This should help to provide Russia with consumer items and improve the standard of living of the Soviet people."

Investment
The polyvinyl chloride products will be for use in food packaging, wall coverings, vinyl flooring and upholstery fabrics. Hammer said 75 per cent would be sold in the Soviet Union and other East bloc countries and the rest exported and sold by Occidental, the largest US producer of the plastic.

"We will amortise our investment and also get a profit," Hammer said. "With the planned expansion of the economy in the Soviet Union, it is expected that the market for these products will enjoy rapid growth for years to come."

The factories will be built at Kaluzh, near the border with Czechoslovakia, with operations due to begin in 1991, and Occidental chief executive officer Raymond Irani said they should start turning a profit as early as 1992.

Dealings
Hammer was in Moscow this week with more than 500 US businessmen to discuss new trade opportunities created by Kremlin reforms.

The Occidental chairman, who has had business dealings with the Kremlin for decades, also plans to be in Geneva on Thursday for the signing of documents for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Australia drops import quotas on cars and cuts duties

CANBERRA, April 13, (Reuters): Australia took the brake off car imports today under a plan to make its own industry more competitive.

The new tariff-cutting measures lessen protection for the car industry by immediately abolishing rules limiting the number of imported cars to 20 per cent of the market at normal duty rates.

Any cars imported above quota have a massive 85 per cent duty on their prices.

Performance
"This will help our car industry to improve its performance," John Button, industry, technology and commerce minister told reporters.

Tariffs, which currently raise the cost of imported cars by 57.5 per cent, will continue to be imposed on the cars but they will be progressively lowered.

They will be immediately cut to 45 per cent and reduced to a rate of 35 per cent by 1992, by which time the government hopes to have totally revamped the car industry.

Under the government's overall plans for the car industry, launched in January 1985, the number of models produced in Australia has been reduced from 13 to eight.

The number of Australian car-makers is also down to five — Ford, Nissan, General Motors Holden, Mitsubishi and Toyota.

Of these producers, GM-Holden and Toyota intend to form a joint venture and Nissan and Ford are looking into opportunities for cooperation, Button said.

The ultimate aim is that, faced with the new foreign competition, Australian carmakers will price their cars more competitively, he said.

The on-the-road cost of an average family saloon is currently 23,000 dollars (\$17,000), a price rise of about 3,000 dollars (\$2,200) since April last year.

This, coupled with a hold-down on wage rises to fight inflation, now seven per cent, has hit all car sales over the past few years.

Passenger car registrations have dropped considerably, being 509,590 vehicles in calendar 1985, of which 130,600 were imported.

UK to reject Opec cooperation in Saudi talks

Strategy to raise crude prices

JAKARTA, April 13, (Reuters): Opec moderates Venezuela and Indonesia coordinated strategy today to boost crude prices and patch up unity within the oil organisation.

An Indonesian government spokesman said President Suharto and visiting Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi agreed during a 90-minute meeting on the need to increase efforts to achieve fair and stable oil prices.

With Nigeria, they form a group of non-Arab moderates within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) who are trying to bridge fundamental differences between members, particularly Iran and Saudi Arabia, over whether or not to cut production quotas to boost slumping crude prices.

Development
"Both heads of state agreed that in order to achieve a fair and stable oil price there needs to be close unity within Opec itself, and they both saw a need to continue a dialogue with oil producing countries outside Opec," Indonesian Minister of State Murdiono told reporters.

"They discussed developments in world oil, and both presidents firmly agreed to increase their efforts to achieve an oil price that is stable and fair," he added.

He did not specify what their price target was but both countries are committed to Opec's December accord which set a preference price of \$18 a barrel. Venezuela is contacting some non-Opec producers to help get coordinated action to prop up prices.

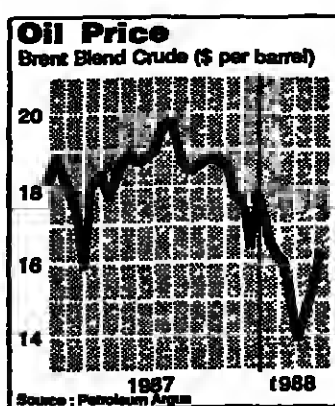
The Venezuelan President, who is accompanied by his energy and foreign affairs ministers, was given a red carpet welcome on arrival in Jakarta this morning from the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Talks
He is the first Latin American head of state to visit during President Suharto's 22-year rule over South-West Asia's largest country, and Murdiono said they agreed to act as a bridge between their two regions.

In separate ministerial talks, the two countries discussed cooperation in energy and mining, and measures to combat drug trafficking.

The two presidents shared the view that Opec members must stick firmly to agreements already reached. Murdiono stated, an apparent reference to violations by some members of December's agreed output quotas.

Indonesia has advocated a global production cut of 700,000



Source: Petroleum Asia

to 800,000 barrels a day to bring prices back up to the \$18 level after falling several dollars lower because of a glutted market over the past few months.

It is coordinating strategy with Venezuela and Nigeria to help bridge differences within the organisation, according to Indonesian Energy Minister Giandjar Kartasasmita.

Venezuela, Nigeria and Indonesia are members of the Opec pricing committee, along with Algeria and Saudi Arabia. The five are scheduled to meet seven non-Opec producers in Vienna on April 23.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said after today's presidential meet-

ing that he would go on to Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

"I think all the countries have an interest to cooperate in the stabilisation of the market," he stated without elaboration. Malaysia, Oman and Egypt are among the seven non-Opec producers scheduled to meet in Vienna, along with Mexico, China, Colombia and Angola.

Giandjar said he did not feel cuts in Opec production quotas were necessary at present, though the situation could be reviewed after the non-Opec meeting and a full Opec session on April 25.

Meanwhile, Britain will reject any Opec request to cooperate with the organisation in curbing oil production to boost prices when the British and Saudi energy ministers meet today, an energy department spokesman said.

Curbs
He said Cecil Parkinson would tell Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazer that the government will resist working with Opec.

"Obviously they will discuss it. Our position on production restraint is quite clear — we're not going to change it," the spokesman told Reuters.

Under Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher's free market-minded Conservative administration, Britain, like the United States, opposes any suggestion that it should place government curbs on output to dictate prices.

Opec accuses Britain, which produces about 2.5 million barrels of oil a day and is the biggest North Sea producer, of benefiting from prices which are kept up by the organisation's sacrifices.

Global oversupply is depressing prices below Opec's benchmark of \$18 a barrel target. Spot market quotes for North Sea oil, a barometer for world prices, are now around \$16.50.

Support
Opec said last weekend it would hold talks in Vienna on April 23 with seven producers from outside the organisation — Egypt, Angola, Mexico, China, Malaysia, Colombia and Oman.

Britain was not invited.

Opec president Riwanu Lukman said it was possible that the Soviet Union and Norway might attend the talks. Both countries have pledged support for Opec price-boosting moves in the past.

A senior Mexican official said in Norway on Tuesday one option was for the non-Opec producers to trim their output by almost 500,000 barrels per day in return for a big cut by Opec.

Under Prime Minister Mar-

Fed tightens its grip on credit

US expects dollar stability to continue

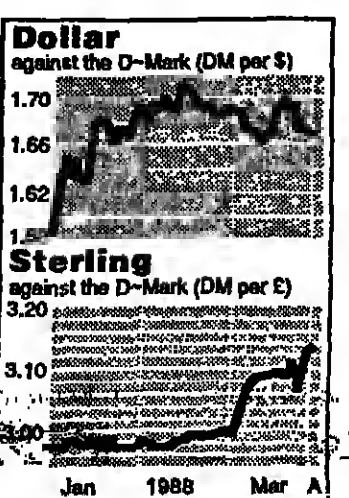
WASHINGTON — The US is confident that policy actions it took with West Germany and Japan last year will ensure a stable dollar in the months ahead, a Reagan administration official said, according to the Wall Street Journal.

His assurances come as the Group of Seven leading industrial nations prepare to open meetings here on Wednesday. The group is expected to reaffirm its December agreement to stabilise the US currency and, above all, to display unity. But while other members share the US's determination to keep the dollar calm and unified front, some privately express fear that the US currency will come under pressure again.

The US official, who asked not to be named, said the group agrees that economic-policy and currency-market actions since last December generally stabilised the dollar.

Actions
Most central banks of the seven nations — US, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — intervened in January and March to counter bouts of downward pressure on the dollar.

"All of the G-7 believe that the Dec. 22 agreement has been working very well," the US official said. Economic-policy actions taken by the US, West Germany and Japan will have



Source: Reuters

"more than simply a three-month effect" and will continue to stabilise the dollar in coming months, he said.

His remarks suggest that the three nations are unlikely to take further economic measures to hasten the reduction of world trade imbalances, especially during this US presidential election year.

As a result, the burden of ensuring the dollar's stability is likely to fall on currency intervention by central banks, which are beginning to tire from heavy dollar purchases to support the currency.

"Nobody really expects the scale of 1987 (intervention) is likely to be repeated," a European central

banker said.

Despite professing confidence in the December accord, privately some G-7 officials fear the dollar may slide again unless Washington and Bonn take further action. By contrast, they acknowledge that strong domestic growth in Japan shows Tokyo is doing as much as it can.

"Intervention has to be accompanied by policy changes, and we're not going to get any US budget adjustment this year," the European central banker said. Another added: "Growth is weak in Germany and France, so the Europeans won't have much basis to press the US."

Accord
Those concerns will be underlined in a presentation by the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus.

His remarks are likely to reflect concern that progress in adjusting world trade imbalances will cease after next year, undermining the dollar. Camdessus is expected to say that without further policy changes by Washington and Bonn, the US current-account deficit — at the balance of trade in goods and services and unilateral transfers — will stop narrowing at about 2 per cent of gross national product in 1990.

That compares with its level now of roughly 3 per cent of

GNP, or the total value of a nation's goods and services.

Under the Dec 22 accord, the seven nations agreed to cooperate to stabilise the dollar. The agreement was reached after the US, West Germany and Japan each took action that the accord said would speed the reduction of world-trade imbalances and achieve more balanced growth.

In the US, the White House reached a two-year agreement with Congress to cut the budget deficit.

In Europe, West Germany led a coordinated round of interest rate cuts and also took modest measures to increase investment. While in Japan, the government agreed to sustain public-works spending to bolster domestic demand.

The US official said the US Federal Reserve Board tightened its grip on credit recently, an action that may have helped to reverse a fall in March of the dollar.

That action will be warmly welcomed by G-7 members, including Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, who last month urged the Fed to tighten credit whenever the dollar is pressured.

But in the event of a steep fall, it's uncertain if the Fed would be willing to engineer a significant increase in rates in an election year.

UK and Moscow urged to join market stability efforts

ABU DHABI, April 13, (Opecna): Britain and the Soviet Union have been urged to join current moves by both Opec and non-Opec producers to stabilise world oil market and prices, a local daily said here.

An editorial published in the Al Khaleej Times, described the meeting scheduled for April 23 between Opec and non-Opec producers as "well-merited."

This would be the first formal joint meeting between the two groups, it said.

The meeting, the paper noted, reflects the determination among most oil producers to check decline in oil prices.

Position
Praising non-Opec initiative for the meeting, the editorial said this would vindicate Opec's position and that the organisation could not alone shoulder the responsibility and sacrifice for oil market stability.

Noting that most of the oil producers scheduled to meet Opec were from developing countries, the paper added that the developed world appeared to hant on weakening Opec's influence.

An opportunity has been provided for the oil producers to work in harmony, and it will be tragic if it is not fully utilised by countries such as the Soviet Union and Britain, the editorial warned.

Developing nations form Third World GATT

BELGRADE, April 13, (Reuters): Nearly 50 developing nations agreed today to grant one another tariff concessions and trade preferences in a far-reaching bid to promote commerce within the Third World.

Some delegates at a ministerial meeting which adopted the new Global System of Trade Preference (GSTP) were hailing it as a "Third World GATT."

GATT
The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is the nearest thing the world has to a set of laws on free trade. It was founded by Western nations in 1947.

"Today we can stand truly proud of our achievement," said Ibrahim Takachovic of Yugoslavia, chairman of the conference of 48 countries which negotiated the new, specifically Third World multilateral trade

pact.

"What has been just a distant dream, we have turned into a reality," he said.

A Sri Lanka official, however, said that while the conference laid grounds for a Third World trade regime on GATT lines, "it may still have a long way to go before it reaches that stage."

Accord
The GSTP is intended to revolutionise Third World commerce by establishing a regime of tariff concessions and trade preferences along "most favoured nation" lines.

The 48 countries have exchanged 1,500 concessions on trade in various goods, which became multilateral today with the signing of the accord.

The conference, of members of the so-called Group of 77 developing nations, also endorsed

a resolution by Cuba and Nicaragua indirectly criticising the United States for "coercive economic measures" against Panama.

Diogo De Gaspar, acting deputy secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which gave technical assistance to the conference, said a committee would be formed to operate the new trade accord.

Li Zhimin, head of a Chinese observer delegation, told Reuters he was optimistic China could cooperate with the GSTP. It has asked to join, but this was not possible as it is not a G-77 member.

"We are currently negotiating to join GATT and I believe legal obstacles to joining the GSTP as well will not prove unsurmountable," Li said.

World Bank sets up new investor insurance agency

WASHINGTON, April 13, (Reuters): A World Bank agency designed to protect private investors from political risks in developing countries has been formally established after getting a final nod of approval from the United States and Britain.

World Bank president Barber Conable announced yesterday that enough countries had ratified the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) to allow its formation, and said a meeting would be held on June 8 to establish its bylaws.

Conable said he was hopeful that Miga, proposed for the first time two-and-a-half years ago, would begin insuring private investment sometime this year.

"Development demands investment," Conable told

reporters, adding that direct private investment in developing countries had fallen to less than \$10 billion last year from 16 billion in 1981.

Hope
He expressed hope this would be reversed with the help of Miga, but said he could not quantify how great the improvement would be.

Bank officials stressed that Miga's reach would go far beyond economic risks associated with armed conflict and civil unrest in Third World countries.

They told reporters that the agency would also cover the loss of profits a foreign investor could suffer if denied the right to repatriate funds from investments abroad.

Societe Generale shareholders to vote today on takeover

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 13, (AP): Shareholders of Societe Generale de Belgique SA are to meet tomorrow to seal the fate of the company that is older than Belgium and controls a third of its economy.

The meeting is also to decide the destiny of the 3-month-old hostile bid of Italian industrial-financier Carlo De Benedetti, which has been bogged down in a swamp of legal, political and managerial conflicts.

De Benedetti's Jan 18 bid rocked the company, long home to the blue-blooded cream of Belgium's business leaders and one in which Belgian royalty and its Roman Catholic Church are said to have shares.

De Benedetti, head of Italy's Olivetti Spa, claims he and

friends own as much as 49 per cent of the shares in 166-year-old Societe Generale.

His bid has spawned a rival alliance led by Cie. financiere De Suez of France and Groupe AG, Belgium's biggest insurer, which claim a 50.7 per cent stake.

De Benedetti called the shareholders meeting after months of conflicting statements and claims. The extraordinary meeting is to decide who owns what, exactly.

Analysts say the meeting at Societe Generale's stately head office next to the royal palace might turn into a peace conference or a showdown.

"Anything is possible," said Maurice Lippens, head of Groupe Ag.

About 1,000 shareholders and

200 journalists were to attend the meeting in a specially built tent at the head office.

Lippens said De Benedetti must agree to share in management of Societe Generale, not run it.

Ideas
But De Benedetti has said he seeks a free hand in Societe Generale, which has stakes in about 1,300 companies around the globe. The companies are active in just about every field of industrial endeavour.

De Benedetti wants to turn Societe Generale into a Pan-European holding before 1992, when the European Economic Community is to remove borders within the EEC and, with it, a thicket of regulatory restrictions.

His search for control is entirely in character.

Early in his career, the 53-year-old De Benedetti left the board of Fiat Spa. He said it was too slow in adopting his ideas for change.

He went to Olivetti, took control and turned around the fortunes of the Italian office-automation giant.

The battle for Societe Generale has drawn companies from eight nations. They have entered the fray via a hodge-podge of coalitions.

France's Suez has a stake of 30 per cent of the shares.

Its main partner is Belgium's Groupe AG, which only has a share of 3.78 per cent. In all, the AG-Suez camp comprises a dozen or so Belgian, French, Luxembourg and Swiss firms.

De Benedetti's allies include Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. of the United States and other US Swiss and Australian finance companies.

He has created a holding company for some of the shares in his stable to attract major European companies. The Swiss food giant Nestle SA has agreed to buy into it, and Philips, the Dutch communications and electronics company, may follow suit.

The confrontation over Societe Generale is more than just counting heads.

For one thing, the target was long considered untouchable.

King William I of the Netherlands founded Societe Generale in 1822, eight years before Belgium became independent of Dutch rule.

World Business Summary

Oil price should hit \$30 by year 2000: US study

WASHINGTON, April 13, (Opecna): The price of oil should rise to about \$30 by the year 2000 as demand increases and excess supply dwindles, the US Energy said. The Department's Energy Information Administration said in its annual Energy outlook that in the long run the world will become more dependent on Middle East oil, Reuters reported.

The department added that by the year 2000, natural gas prices would rise to about \$4 per thousand cu ft. from the two-dollar average last year. The report predicted that US oil demand, now about 16.5 million bpd, would rise to 17.7 million bpd by 1995 and to 18.3 million bpd by the year 2000.

At the same time US domestic production, now about 8.3 million bpd, would drop gradually to six million bpd by the year 2000.

It is estimated that US dependence on imports would rise from 35 per cent in 1987 to 55 per cent by the year 2000.

"It seems inevitable in the long run that the world will become more dependent on Opec supplies," the report concluded.

Majority of Austrians back aid to Third World

VIENNA, April 13, (Opecna): Over 50 per cent of Austrians consider that their own fate is linked with that of developing countries, according to the results of a survey released here.

It also shows that more than three-quarters of the Austrian population support economic aid to developing countries while 22 per cent are against the idea. Conducted by the Fessel and GFK Institute for the Austrian Foreign Ministry, the survey shows that in other European countries, fewer people had rejected the idea of development and with Belgium "Nin" amounting to 17 per cent, Britain (12 per cent), France (11 per cent) and Portugal (2 per cent).

The survey was held in the framework of the present "North-South" campaign by the Council of Europe.

The Austrian chairman of the campaign's organisation committee, Walter Linchen, said that the project's aim was to increase awareness on the subject among Europeans and global decision-makers. He stressed that Austria should create medium-term budget planning for development aid as, at present, additional funds would only become available through "redistribution," due to the country's financial situation.

Joint firm to promote investment and tourism

DAMASCUS, April 13, (Kuna): President of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqer and the delegation accompanying him left here today for Kuwait after participating in meetings of the Arab Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture that concluded sitting here last Sunday.

He was seen off by Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Mohammed Al Imadi, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Damascus Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassem and his Syrian counterpart Baderuddin Shallah. Al Saqer told Kuna, in a pre-departure statement, that he met while in Damascus with Syrian Tourism Minister Adnan Quli after which they signed a contract for the creation of a joint company for investment and promotion of tourism in Amrit area with a capital of around \$3.36 million. The project stipulates and construction of two 500-bed hotels, a 300-bed first class hotel, 285 chalets that can accommodate 1200 beds with all necessary installations and utilities in Amrit area in the port city of Tartous on the Mediterranean.

He pointed out that the presidents of the Arab chambers were assured by Syrian Premier Mahmoud Al Zu'bi that Damascus welcomes any joint endeavour to promote inter-Arab investment ventures in various spheres.

Ifad president to discuss cooperation with Switzerland

BERN, April 13, (Opecna): Switzerland's role in the third replenishment of the resources for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), will be discussed here today at a meeting between Idress Jazary, president of the Rome-based Institute, and Swiss Federal Foreign Minister Rene Felber.

Jazary will also discuss future cooperation between his institute and Swiss non-governmental organisations. According to an Ifad press release, Switzerland, a strong supporter of the institute since it was established, contributed more than \$9 million to Ifad's resources and another two million to the special programme for sub-Saharan Africa. Ifad, whose financial resources are shouldered by Opec countries and OECD members, extended \$2.5 billion for 220 projects in developing countries during the first 10 years of its operations.

In addition, it also extended 261 technical assistance grants to 89 developing nations.

Abu Dhabi loan for Moscow

ABU DHABI, April 13, (Reuters): Abu Dhabi said today it would loan \$50 million to a Soviet bank, its biggest deal with Moscow since diplomatic relations were established in 1985.

The Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and the Abu Dhabi Investment Company (Adic), both owned by the emirate, signed the agreement with the Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs.

"We wish to foster economic cooperation" between the UAE and the Soviet Union, ADCB chairman Sheikh Sultan Bin Sarour Al Dhahiri said in a statement.

Adic managing director Sultan Al Suweidi told Reuters more loans would be made in Soviet institutions but declined to give details. The interest rate on the eight-year loan was not disclosed but the statement said it would be on favourable terms. The ADCB will lend \$32.5 million and Adic the rest, the statement said.

Egypt to attend Opec meeting

CAIRO, April 13, (Reuters): Egypt will take part in talks in Vienna between Opec and non-Opec countries to discuss ways to boost oil prices, a senior oil official said today. Hammad Ayyoub, vice-chairman of the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC), told Reuters he would represent Egypt at the meeting on April 23. On Saturday, the price committee of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) invited seven non-member oil-producing countries, including Egypt, for the talks.

Oil Minister Abdel Hadi Kandeel said on Monday that Egypt welcomed the move and was willing to cooperate with all oil producers to stabilise the market.

Asean urged to avoid competition

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13, (Kuna): The governments of Asean — the grouping of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei — have been told not to compete among themselves for foreign investors by dismantling their labour legislation because they might end up worsening employment conditions for workers.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) consultant Gus Edgren said such efforts will not achieve any increase in employment.

Bright prospects for Bonn and other industrial countries

Experts discuss world economy, dollar accord

WASHINGTON, April 13. (Reuters) Finance ministers and central bank governors from the leading industrial democracies were expected to reaffirm the current range for the dollar as they met today to discuss the world economy.

West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said the Group of Five (G-5) and Group of Seven (G-7) nations were meeting in more positive circumstances than had appeared possible after the October stock market crash.

"For West Germany and other important industrial countries the prospects have brightened on the basis of first quarter data," he said.

G-5 comprises the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France. G-7 adds Italy and Canada.

The officials are in Washington for this week's semi-annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Bonn has revised its forecast for economic growth this year upwards to over two per cent because of recent good industrial data, Stoltenberg said.

The ministers and central bankers would consider the forecast for the world economy drawn up by the IMF staff, Stoltenberg said, adding he considered it an appropriate assessment.

Commitment
The IMF economic outlook forecasts 2.6 per cent growth for G-7 countries in 1988, rising to 2.8 per cent in 1989, after 3.0 per cent in 1987, according to IMF officials. The outlook will be formally issued on Thursday.

The G-7 officials will also review the state of the foreign exchange market since the group

renewed its commitment to currency stability and economic policy coordination last December amid a slump in the dollar, Stoltenberg said.

The dollar was trading just below 1.69 marks and just over 126 yen today, after hitting a record low 1.56 marks and a post-war low 120 yen soon after the G-7 December statement.

Officials have ruled out new initiatives on exchange rates at this week's meetings, and currency dealers expect the G-7 merely to call for continued exchange rate stability, reaffirming present currency levels.

French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur said the December agreement had produced "good results... and exchange rates have been stabilised."

But officials are well aware that economic data, especially

the US trade figures, are an important influence on exchange rates, as well as economic policy coordination, Stoltenberg said.

The major question is whether the US trade deficit will continue to narrow, he said.

Chance
"There is a very good chance that the trend of a falling (US) trade deficit will continue," Stoltenberg said, noting that US exports had been growing strongly this year.

US trade data for February are due to be issued on Thursday, with most market economists forecasting the deficit will narrow to around \$11.5 billion, after falling below \$13 billion in December and January.

A stubborn US trade deficit would create pressure for a further fall in the dollar to make American exports more competitive. It would also add to

protectionist moves to curb US imports.

But Stoltenberg said negotiations between the US administration and Congress on a new trade bill were also positive.

"Expectations are better than a year ago that there will be legislation that is not tinged with protectionism," he said.

Stoltenberg said the United States was no longer putting pressure on West Germany to boost its economy further with tax or interest rate moves.

US criticism of West German monetary policy last September was one cause of the stock market crash, as financial markets feared an end to international cooperation.

But US officials have stressed their satisfaction with Bonn's policies before this meeting. "Peace in our time," commented one German official.

Dollar firm ahead of G-7 talks, sterling eases

LONDON, April 13. (Reuters) Washington talks among finance ministers of leading industrial nations and hopes that figures due on Thursday may show a further correction of the US trade gap buoyed the dollar today.

But it dipped from its best levels on market talk that the Group of Seven finance ministers would not set any firm floor under it, dealers reported.

Several analysts said that, if the G-7 talks are too much of an anti-climax and Thursday's February US figures show no marked narrowing of America's trade deficit, the dollar could take a tumble.

Improvement
"I do not expect anything new from the G-7 meeting... and the market is getting carried away on the trade data. It's too early to expect such a rapid improvement," said Chris Zwermann of Swiss Bank Corp in Frankfurt.

Today's dollar dip made for caution on Wall Street, where stocks eased in quiet early hours, but the Dow Jones industrial average down 11 points to just below 2,100.

Recent advances on stock markets worldwide have to some extent been made in tandem with a firmer dollar.

Dip
It touched quoted highs in Europe at 1.6930 West German marks and 126.85 yen — its best for three weeks — earlier today as investors deemed it prudent not to be short of dollars ahead of the G-7 and the US trade figures.

Later, after its small dip, it held

just under 1.69 marks and around 126.25 yen.

Asian and European stock markets made modest gains, buoyed by the firm dollar and an 14-point advance on Tuesday on Wall Street which had taken the Dow to a close above 2,100 for the first time since the October crash.

Tokyo stocks closed today 54.71 points higher at 26,985.55 — its fourth record finish to a week.

Stock trading in Tokyo was described as robust. Some buyers held back to see what G-7 would bring and to confirm expectations of a lower US trade deficit but there was little real concern, brokers said.

"No bad news is expected for the Japanese market," said deputy branch manager Takeshi Murakami of Schroder Securities.

Australian stockmarkets closed 14.5 points higher at 1,461.9, stimulated by Wall Street's ability to stay above 2,100 points. Trading volume, however, was light. Hong Kong equities were also looking stronger.

Higher
In London, share prices ended slightly higher today with most of the activity coming in the morning as Swiss chocolate maker Jacobs Suchard S.A. launched a "dawn raid" that netted it 14.9 per cent of British confectioner Rowntree Plc shares.

The Financial Times stock exchange 100-share index was up 5.1 points, or 0.3 per cent, at 1,810.4 at the close.

Rowntree's share price soared

as Suchard stepped in, pulling up stocks in the food and store sectors in its wake. Oil shares also continued to firm before the April 25 meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The index moved up as much as 11.3 points shortly after the opening, but hit a low of 3.1 points up in late afternoon on the back of early losses on Wall Street.

Volume was moderate at 514.2 million shares, up from 364.7 million on Tuesday.

Optimism
Early optimism turned sour on West German bourses, where the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index ended at 303.33 after Tuesday's 302.17. "The start was again very promising, but then prices drifted back," one dealer reported. There was some foreign interest but not enough to fuel a significant rise.

French shares firmed and the Paris bourse index ended 1.17 per cent higher.

The price of gold was meanwhile set in London this afternoon at \$449.35 an ounce, up 85 cents from the morning as the dollar eased.

The pound sterling eased against both dollar and mark, fetching around \$1.8455 and slipping below 3.12 marks.

North Sea oil for June loading traded at \$16.65 a barrel. This suggested that crude oil prices were little changed, remaining at the former levels seen since news at the weekend that Opec and seven producers from outside the organisation are to meet on possible output cuts.

Sluggish growth rate seen in world economy

THE world economy during September 1986-August 1987 was characterised by sluggish growth rates in the world economy, increasing deficits in the United States, balance of trade in goods and services, increasing protectionism in international trade, volatile currency exchange rates and a reduction in the flow of financial resources from the industrialised market economies to the developing countries, according to IDB annual report.

According to October 1987 figures from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), growth rates in the world economy have been on the decline since 1984 when a growth of 4.5 per cent in world output was recorded.

In 1985 and 1986, the growth in output in the world economy was 3.3 and 3.2 per cent respectively.

The forecast of the IMF in October 1987 was that the world output in 1987 will grow by only 2.8 per cent.

Trends
For the industrial countries, growth trends have also been declining since 1984 when a real gross national product (GNP) growth rate of 5.0 per cent was recorded. This rate dropped to 3.1 per cent in 1985 and 2.7 per cent in 1986.

Real GNP growth in the industrial countries for 1987 was projected by the IMF in October 1987 at 2.4 per cent.

During the four year period from 1984 to 1987, real growth rates in the seven major industrial countries (United States, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy and Canada) were on a steady decline.

The relevant figures are 5.2 per cent in 1984, 3.2 per cent in 1985, 2.8 per cent in 1986 and according to IMF projections 2.5 per

cent in 1987.

Four factors were responsible for the sluggish rates of growth in the world economy and in the major industrial countries.

The first was the restrictive monetary policies pursued in some of these countries as part of their on-going effort to hold inflation in check.

A second factor was that despite the drop in the price of oil, consumer demand in oil-importing developed countries in particular did not increase to the degree that was expected even though the fall in oil prices entailed the transfer of billions of dollars from the oil-exporting to the developed countries in particular.

Resources
This transfer of resources should have stimulated substantial growth in the developed countries. The third factor was that for various structural reasons, the depreciation of the US dollar did not stimulate an increase in demand for US products in countries with appreciating currencies to the extent necessary to compensate for the decline in imports to the US economy.

Lastly, the failure of the major industrial countries to coordinate their economic policies, especially in key areas such as interest rates, exchange rates and the expansion of international trade also had a negative impact on growth in world output.

Recovery
Real gross domestic product (GDP) in developing countries grew by 4.1 per cent in 1984, a significant recovery from the very low growth rate of 1.6 per cent during the period 1981 to 1983.

There was a slowdown in this figure and growth in developing

TRENDS IN REAL GDP AT MARKET PRICES OF IDB MEMBER COUNTRIES (1984 - 1987) (annual changes in percent)				
	1984	1985	1986	1987*
All Members	2.5	0.9	4.0	0.3
Oil Exporters ¹	1.6	-0.9	3.7	-2.0
Non-oil Exporters	4.1	3.8	4.3	3.4
Least Developed ²	0.2	2.5	3.4	3.7
* Projections				
1. Includes Algeria, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.				
2. Includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Maldives, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Mauritania and Senegal.				

Source: Data provided by IMF.

countries amounted to 3.3 per cent in 1985 and 4.0 per cent in 1986.

The IMF estimated in October 1987 that in 1987 output in developing countries will grow by 3.3 per cent.

The Middle East region appears to have had the worst performance as compared with Africa and Asia.

Real GDP growth in the Middle East grew by 0.2 per cent in 1984, declined by 1.1 per cent in 1985 and grew by 1.2 per cent in 1986.

The IMF projected in October 1987 that output in this region will again fall by 1.5 per cent in 1987.

As might be expected, low real GDP growth rates in the Middle East were due essentially to the huge drop in oil prices and the fact that this product plays a preponderant role in the economy of most of these countries. For the African region, real GDP growth rates were 1.4 per cent in 1984, 2.1 per cent in 1985, 0.3 per cent in 1986 and a projected 1.5 per cent in 1987.

Low
Real GDP growth rates in the Asia region were positive during this entire period, with growth rates registering 8.0 per cent in 1984, 6.4 per cent in 1985, 6.3 per cent in 1986 with a growth of 6.0

per cent in 1987 projected by the IMF.

Table demonstrates that real GDP growth rates for IDB member countries as a whole were on the low side. The performance of the "oil" exporting IDB member countries was particularly poor. These countries had negative growth rates in two of the four years under review. This poor performance was due largely to the fall in oil prices. The "non-oil" exporting member countries performed marginally better during the period 1984-1987 while the performance of the IDB least developed member countries was far from satisfactory during this same period.

Nigeria boosts prices of petroleum products

LAGOS, April 13. (Opecna) The prices of gasoline and other petroleum products have been increased in Nigeria.

Aret Adams, managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said in a letter to all oil marketing companies here at the weekend that the price of petrol (gasoline) will increase from 39.50 kobo to 42.00 kobo a litre while that of kerosene will increase from 10.50 kobo to 35.00 kobo per litre. (One hundred kobo equal one naira. One naira is the equivalent of about 25 US cents. One dollar fetches 4.29 naira at current rate).

Explaining the reasons for the increase, NNPC sources said here yesterday that the corporation now had to operate in a commercial manner following its recent reorganisation.

If the NNPC is to deliver petroleum products effectively and on time, it must be able to maintain its present facilities in technical working condition and replace assets in the future, the sources added.

KIA elects new office bearers

AT the annual general meeting of the Kuwait Insurance Association held at the offices of the Association yesterday, the following were elected as office bearers for 1988-89:

Dr Nouri Zaid Al Kazemi, President; C.S.S. Khanpuri (Guardian R.E.) Chairman; Abdullah Butros (Sumitomo) Deputy Chairman and P.N. Rangan (Royal) Honorary Secretary. P.K. Mankad (Oriental), V.K. Kapur (New India), Abdul M. Kinawi (Nat. of Egypt), Joseph Zaccour (Itihad Al Watani), Marwan Banyat (Northern) were selected as executive committee members and Sami M. Bikhazi (Libano Suisse) as honorary auditor.

Inflation set to reach 600pc this year

Brazil seeks IMF loan for economic reform

SAO PAULO, Brazil, April 13. (Reuters) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) argues that its poor reputation in the Third World is a result of governments agreeing to its tough economic measures only when the rot has truly set in.

The IMF says it is called on when the economy is a mess, and the fund then has to take the blame for the unpalatable medicine needed to put things right.

Brazil in 1988 might offer a classic example of this phenomenon if it wins the IMF loan it is seeking, political analysts say.

Image
The IMF already has a poor public image in Brazil and analysts say this image could be reinforced if the fund now steps in with a loan and a recipe for economic reform.

"That reinforcing of the image will be fostered by the government itself," said David Fleischer, head of the political science department of Brasilia University. "They will use the IMF as a scapegoat."

He said it was hard to imagine the government of President Jose Sarney having the political clout to implement IMF-sponsored reforms, Fleischer described the government as having "below-zero credibility."

In 1986-87 Sarney's government made it a central tenet of policy that it would have no dealings with the IMF, which it portrayed as a heartless dispenser of recession.

Crisis
Now, when the economic crisis of the Third World's biggest debtor is worse than ever, the government is knocking at the IMF's door for money.

The country's crisis has not resulted in dramatic civil unrest — just a steady exodus of more than a million people who have emigrated since 1985 in search of a better life.

Brazil, so used to viewing itself as one of the great countries of the future, has taken a hard psy-

chological knock. "The great dream now of the middle class is to leave the country," said a Brazilian economic journalist.

Policy
With the middle class deeply disillusioned, the trade unions threatening strikes, and inflation set to reach 600 per cent this year, the IMF could hardly enter at a worse time.

Finance Minister Mailson Nobrega, who initiated the about-turn on debt policy, is in Washington this week talking to the IMF about a \$700-million loan.

Last Thursday, Nobrega ordered a two-month pay freeze for Brazil's two million federal government employees. He said the move was needed as part of an emergency package to avert the collapse of the government's finances.

He aimed to reduce the public spending deficit which this year threatened to reach seven per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$313 billion.

Last year former Finance Minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira introduced spending cuts to stop the deficit advancing to 6.2 per cent of GDP. The minister said last July: "All the evidence suggests that the realisation in 1987 of a public sector deficit equal to 6.2 per cent of GDP would reduce the Brazilian economy to chaos."

Aim
Bresser Pereira fell short of his aim of a 1987 deficit of 3.5 per cent and it settled at 5.4 per cent — way up on the 1984 figure of 1.4 per cent.

Brazilian political commentators lay the blame for the government's financial troubles on endemic corruption.

Fernando Pereira, writing in the Jornal Do Brasil newspaper, said: "We all know that the main cause of the public deficit is shocking robbery, that is the corruption... of our ruling elites."

Fleischer told Reuters he gave credence to press estimates that

the Sarney government had spent nearly \$100 million swaying two critical votes in Congress on March 22.

The president secured comfortable majorities on both issues: retention of a strong executive presidency and a five-year term for presidents instead of the four-year term which Sarney himself originally pledged to serve.

Reputation
Critics of the president, who has acquired a reputation for hesitancy in dealing with the country's crisis, ask what he is going to do with his extra year in power.

Opinion polls show about three-quarters of Brazilians want the government to call presidential elections this year, not next year as Sarney wants.

Since there has been no direct presidential poll since 1960, Brazilians complain not only about the skyrocketing cost of living but also government reluctance to hold elections.

Fleischer said the IMF was more sceptical about Brazil than it was in the early 1980s when the country failed repeatedly to meet agreed economic targets. But he believed nevertheless that Brazil had a 50-50 chance of reaching agreement with the fund.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 13.4.88				
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
2	Sammi Blonde	Alqutub	4747815	
3	Arafat	KSA	4843150	
4	Hui Yang	Mohd. Bahar	2433881	
8	Felix	Al Sawa	4746018	
9	Tug Abu Samir	Gulf Star	4845501	
	Barge Maryam	Gulf Star	4845501	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT				
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
13/4	Corriedale Express	Gh. Qutub	4747815	
13/4	Cosmohill Ace	Marafi	2465645	
13/4	Gao Cheng	Gh. Qutub	4747815	
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT				
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
3	Uco XVII	S. Shaheen	2432692	
6	Ionian Express	Gh. Barber	4842988	
12	Wave Crest	RSMS	2423642	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT				
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
11/4	Torbay	KMMC	2419814	
11/4	Dubai	UASC	4843150	
13/4	Trade Freedom	Ma. Bahar	2433881	
12/4	Xanadu	ISA	2441860	
15/4	Grace Liberty	Al Kamal	2425437	
16/4	Al Wajiba	UASC	4843150	
15/4	Addiriyah	UASC	4843150	
18/4	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814	
18/4	Abu Basma	RSMS	2423642	
19/4	Tokyo Bridge	Rashed	2422026	
25/4	Ville du Havre	Rashed	2422026	
25/4	Alvati	RSMS	2423642	
27/5	Pan Korea	RSMS	2423642	

COMPILED BY Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. WLL, PO Box 21708 Safat, Alghanim Industries Bldg, Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Phone 4842988/4843988, extn. 3614/3628.

Soviets line up to buy American-style pizza

MOSCOW, April 13. (AP) Soviets lined up yesterday to buy slices of American-style pizza from a specially equipped van brought to the Soviet Union as part of a joint economic venture involving a New Jersey company.

Braving a cold wind and early spring snow flurries, Muscovites waited outside the window of the mobile pizzeria to hand over their rubles for a slice of cheese and tomato pizza.

The crowd, gathered around the 36-by-11 foot (12-by-3 metre) white van, advertising the joint venture in red, blue and black Russian and English letters, numbered about 50 and remained about the same size over several hours.

By mid-afternoon, almost 1,200 slices had been dispensed over a three-hour period, but workers could not say how many were sold because free pizza was doled out for an hour after opening.

Operations
"The reaction is extraordinary," said Louis Piancone, president of Roma Food Enterprises in Piscataway, New Jersey, at the van's first day of operation in Moscow's Lenin Hills.

"We'll be moving through the city to determine what the market is for opening pizza restaurants. Judging from today at just this location, there's a market," Piancone said.

A law allowing Soviet firms to enter into joint ventures with foreign companies, passed in January 1987, is one of the steps taken by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to raise productivity

and provide sorely needed consumer goods and services.

Many Western businessmen have been wary about such arrangements, saying they require the joint firm's director to be a Soviet, that hirings and firings must conform to Soviet law and that the joint venture could compete with its Western parent abroad.

Since the law went into effect, joint ventures have been signed involving coal, paint and fertilizer production. PepsiCo Inc. last fall signed a contract to open two Pizza Hut restaurants in Moscow, but they have not yet gone into operation.

Demand
"We thought this was a great opportunity. We thought we'd get the yankee spirit and come here and open this," said Piancone's American partner, Shelley Zeiger, standing in front of lettering on the van proclaiming the "first American pizza in Moscow."

Zeiger said at a news conference that they intend to open as many as 25 pizza restaurants around the Moscow area, if the Soviet government approves and demand is sufficient.

Envoys meet Sheikh Salem

KUWAIT'S Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah yesterday received separately the ambassadors of Tunisia and Spain. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of common concern to their countries.

Colombia will not attend Opec meeting

BOGOTA, April 13. (Reuters) Colombia will not attend a meeting in Vienna on April 23 between Opec and non-Opec oil producers to discuss possible cooperation on stabilizing the oil market, the mines and energy ministry said.

Spokeswoman Silvia Lillo told Reuters today that Energy Minister Guillermo Perry did not plan to participate in such a meeting.

The initiative to invite non-Opec Third World producers was taken by Opec's seven-man price committee during its latest meeting in Vienna earlier this month.

Opec president Riwan Lukman said the countries invited would be Mexico, Colombia, Oman, China, Angola, Egypt and Malaysia, and possibly the Soviet Union.

Pakistan may seek foreign aid

ISLAMABAD, April 13. (Reuters) Pakistan is likely to seek about \$2.5 billion from foreign aid donors at their meeting in Paris next week, official sources said today.

They said the request for the financial year 1988/89 beginning on July 1 would be made at the April 18-19 meeting of the World Bank-sponsored consortium which pledged nearly \$2.3 billion for the current fiscal year in April last year.

The actual aid to Pakistan during 1987/88 amounted to only \$1.1 billion, the sources said.

Dear Junior Readers,

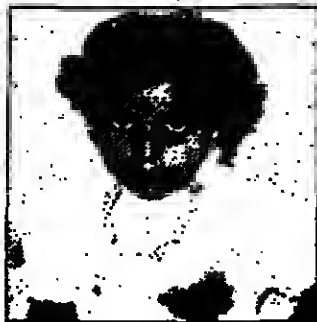
It is the last quarter of school for many of you and the pressure is on to do your best for this last marking period.

It is a good time to remember that while the grade is important it is not as important as simply doing the best you can, even if that means less than the mark you or your parents had hoped for. At the same time you cannot really take much pride in a high mark if you know that you could have done a lot better.

Aunt Barbara

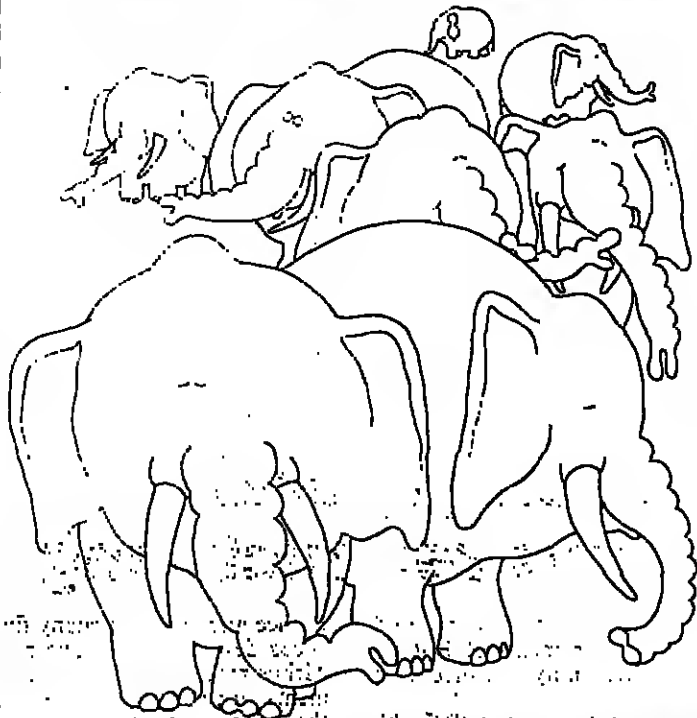
Happy birthday

Jitsy Jose celebrated her third birthday in Kerala, India, April 2, with her family and friends. Best wishes, Jose, from Kuwait.



Peanut pursuit

Can you help these elephants find the five hidden peanuts?



Congo boy gets a spear

ONCE upon a time, there was a Congo boy who lived in an African village with his father and his mother and his brothers and his sisters.

The boy wanted to go hunting with his father. But his father said, "You cannot go hunting until you have a spear of your own. You must stay here and herd the sheep, and

gather mealies, and milk the old white cow."

One day the boy went to the mealie patch to gather mealies. In the mealie patch he found a root. The boy said, "This root is good to eat. I shall take it to my mother, and she will cook it for me."

So the boy gave the root to his mother, and she cooked it for him. But the

boy's little brother found the root and ate it.

Just then the boy came to get his root. He said to his mother, "Give me the root; the root which I found when I went to gather mealies in the mealie patch."

The boy's mother said, "I cannot give you your root because your little brother has eaten it. But because he has eaten it, I shall give you a new milking pot."

So the boy took the new milking pot and set off to find the old white cow.

On the way he met two boys milking their goats. They were milking their goats into cracked pots. The Congo boy said, "Why are you milking your goats into cracked pots? Take my new milking pot. But remember — I shall want it when I come back."

So the boys milked their goats into the milking pot. But one of the boys dropped and broke it. Just then the Congo boy came to get his milking pot.

He said to the boys, "Give me the milking pot — the milking pot my mother gave me when my brother ate the root, the root which I found when I went to gather mealies in the mealie patch."

The boys said, "We cannot give you your milking pot because we have broken it. But because we have broken it, we shall give you our knife."

So the Congo boy took the knife and set off to find the old white cow. On the

way he met two girls cutting meat with splinters of sugar cane.

The boy said, "Why are you cutting meat with splinters of sugar cane? Take my knife. But remember — I shall want it when I come back."

So the girls cut their meat with the knife. But one of the girls cut through a bone, and the knife broke.

Just then the boy came back to get his knife. He said to the girls, "Give me the knife — the knife the boys gave me, the boys who broke the milking pot, the milking pot my mother gave me when my brother ate the root, the root which I found when I went to gather mealies in the mealie patch."

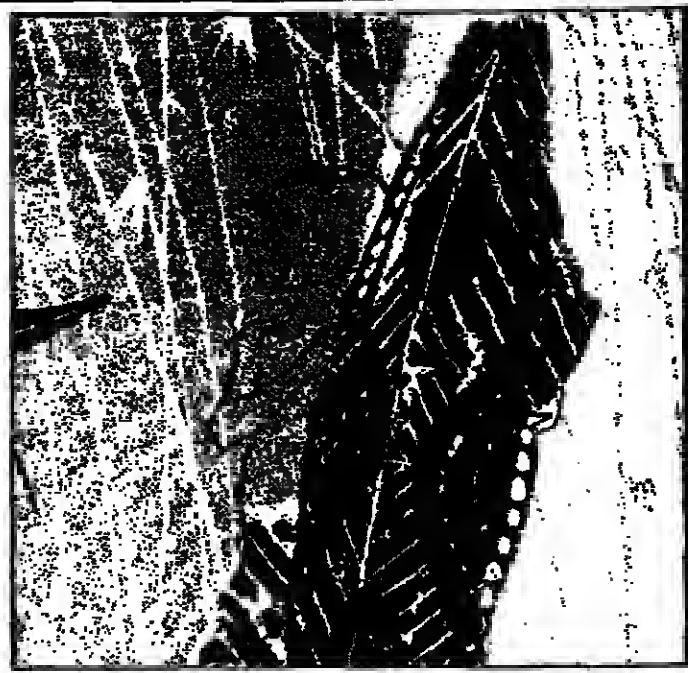
The girls said, "We cannot give you your knife because we have broken it. But because we have broken it, we shall give you our blanket."

So the boy took the blanket and set off to find the old white cow.

On the way he met two men sleeping on the ground. The boy said, "Why do you lie on the cold ground? Take my blanket. But remember — I shall want it when I come back."

So the men took the blanket. But they found that the blanket was not large enough for both of them. And each man tried to get it for himself. Soon the blanket was torn to bits.

Just then the boy came to get his blanket. He said to the men, "Give me the blanket — the blanket the



girls gave me, the girls who broke the knife, the knife the boys gave me, the boys who broke the milking pot, the milking pot my mother gave me when my brother ate the root, the root which I found when I went to gather mealies in the mealie patch."

The men said, "We cannot give you your blanket because we have torn it. But because we have torn it, we shall give you a shield."

So the boy took the shield and set off to find the old white cow.

On the way he met two hunters looking for a leopard. The boy said, "Why do you hunt without a shield? Take my shield. But remember — I shall want it when I come back."

So the hunters took the shield and ran after the leopard. But the hunter fell over a stone, and the shield broke. Just then the boy came back to get his shield.

He said to the hunters, "Give me the shield — the shield the men gave me, the men who tore the blanket, the blanket the girls gave me, the girls who broke the knife, the knife the boys gave me, the boys who broke the milking pot, the milking pot my mother gave me when my brother ate the root, the root which I found when I went to gather mealies in the mealie patch."

The hunters said, "We cannot give you your shield because we have broken it. But because we have broken it, we shall give you a spear."

The boy took the spear and ran home as fast as he could run.

The boy's mother and his brothers and his sisters came to see the spear.

Just then the boy's father came home. He said to the boy, "Now you have a spear of your own. Now you can go hunting with me."

I woke up this morning Poetry Corner

I woke up this morning
at quarter past seven.
I kicked up the covers
and stuck out my toe.
And even since then
(That's a quarter past seven)
They haven't said anything
Other than 'no'.

They haven't said anything
Other than 'Please, dear,
Don't do what you're doing,
Or 'Lower your voice.'
Whatever I've done
And I've made the wrong choice.

I didn't wash well

And I didn't say thank you.
I didn't shake hands
And I didn't say sorry
When, passing the candy,
I changed the box into
Miss Witelson's knees.
I didn't say sorry
I didn't stand straighter
I didn't speak louder
When asked what I'd said.

Well, I said
That tomorrow
At quarter past seven,
They can
Come in and get me
I'm staying in bed



Equal shares

Can you divide this rectangle into four equally shaped and sized areas, each part containing one of each of the seven symbols shown

2	3	5	4
4	1	5	2
3	1	2	1
5	3	4	5
4	1	2	3

2	3	2	4
2	5	3	5
3	4	4	5
1	2	1	4
1	3	1	5

Asia

Where opium is grown

Opium is one of the most frequently used drugs in the world, especially in the East where it is smoked or chewed. It is obtained from the milky juice of a poppy, known as Papaver somniferum, the 'sleep-bringing poppy'. When the milky juice is extracted from the poppy it turns dark when exposed to the light and becomes hard. The hardened juice is then rolled into balls and sent to refineries where it is prepared for medical uses.

Opium is a narcotic drug, easing pain and helping people to sleep, but it is also a dangerous drug because people who take it can soon become addicted.



Where the pheasant first came from

The pheasant, a beautiful bird often sought by hunters, first lived in the mountainous region of the Caucasus. The ancient Romans brought it to Europe.

In its natural state the pheasant likes to make its home in moist woodlands, especially on hillsides. The cock, or male, has brightly coloured feathers which have a metallic sheen. The hen, or female, is plainer, and is of a brownish colour. Both male and female have very long tails.

Many varieties occur in different parts of Asia, the Japanese green pheasant being particularly notable.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

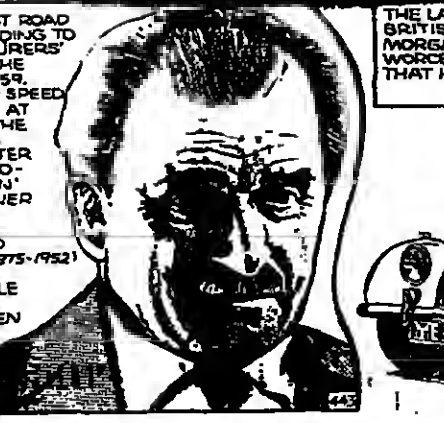
THE LOWEST AGE FOR MARRIAGE IS IN INDIA WITH 20 YEARS FOR FEMALES AND 16 YEARS FOR MALES.



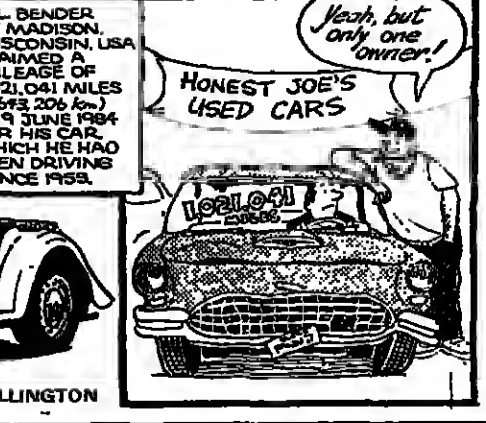
THE OLDEST RECORDED BRIDE-GROOM WAS HARRY STEVENS, 103, WHO MARRIED THELMA LUCAS, 84, AT THE CARAVILLA RETIREMENT HOME, WISCONSIN, USA ON 3 DEC 1984.



THE FASTEST ROAD CAR, ACCORDING TO MANUFACTURERS' CLAIM, IS THE PORSCHE 917 WITH A TOP SPEED OF 230 MPH AT 7000 RPM. THE MARQUE IS NAMED AFTER THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN RACER AND RALLY DRIVER FERDINAND PORSCHE (1875-1952) WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE.



THE LAST OF THE TRADITIONAL BRITISH SPORTS CARS IS THE MORRIS, STILL MADE AT MALVERN, WORCESTERSHIRE, USING METALWORK THAT HAS HARDLY CHANGED SINCE THE 1930S.



Let's cook

Mint chocolate birthday cake

Ingredients
150 g (6 oz) caster sugar
150 g (6 oz) margarine
150 g (6 oz) self-raising flour
3 eggs
1/2 teaspoonful green food colouring
1/2 teaspoonful peppermint essence
1 dessertspoonful cocoa
1 tablespoonful hot water for the filling and decoration:
350 g (14 oz) icing sugar
125 g (5 oz) butter
2 dessertspoonful cocoa
1 tablespoonful hot water
150 g (6 oz) chocolate sugar strands

Equipment
Mixing bowl
Sieve
Wooden spoon
Small basin
Small mixing bowl
2x18 cm (7 in) tins

1. Put oven at Gas Mark 4 (electricity 350°F/180°C).
2. Make the mixture using the creaming method on page 30.
3. Put half this mixture in another mixing bowl and add the cocoa dissolved in the hot water.

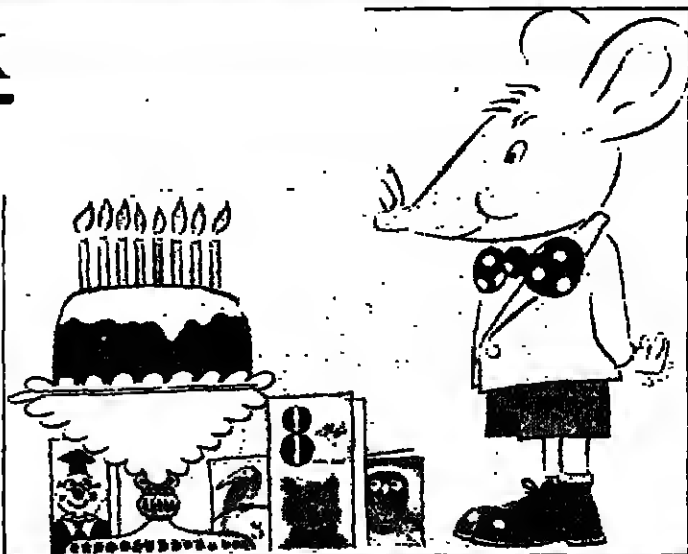
4. To the other half of the mixture add the food colouring and the peppermint essence. Place in tins.
5. Bake both cakes for 20 minutes. When slightly cool turn out onto a wire rack, cover with a clean damp tea towel and leave to cool completely.

6. Using 250 g (10 oz) icing sugar and the butter, make up the butter icing by creaming the ingredients together with half the cocoa.

7. Sandwich the two cakes together with the butter icing and spread icing round the sides, taking it just over the top edge. Dip the sides in chocolate sugar strands and place on a serving plate.

8. With the remaining icing sugar make place icing. Remove one tablespoonful of this and colour it green. Put the green icing in a paper icing bag and either fit a number 2 writing nozzle or snip off the end of the bag. Flavour the rest of the green icing with cocoa.

9. Pour chocolate icing on the top of the cake and when set pipe 'Happy Birthday' with green icing. Arrange candles in the icing round the edge and serve.



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION For Rent

IN Jabriya, new villa, 2 floors, central AC, with tel. line. Ground floor has a large reception room, kitchen, bathroom, 1st floor has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a reception. Tel: 5332425. 5313940, after 3 pm (AT5-41831-3)

KEIFAN, Area 4, Muna Street, House 7, Mulhaq, 2 large bedrooms with bathroom and kitchen, new. Contact the above address or Tel. 4831178 (AT4-41822-3)

IN Mishref Area 3, Street 2, House 10, Mulhaq, two rooms, with kitchen and bathroom. Tel. Osama, 5389907. (AT4-41813-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn (opposite Kids R Us) in a 2 bedroom flat for one bachelor to share with another bachelor, with 2 Goan bachelors. Tel. 2422086/7 ext. 43. (AT6-41872-2)

RUMAITHIYA, Street 100, House 25, Area 10. One room with water, electricity and kitchen facilities, preferably for Mengaloreans to share with an Indian family. Bus 24, 27, Cheap rent, Tel. Norbert, 4744188, 8 am - 12.30 p.m., 3.30 - 7.30 p.m. (AT4-41818-3)

SURFA, one room available with water and electricity for a couple or two working ladies to share with a small family KD50. Tel. 2520468. (AT6-41876-2)

FAHAHEEL, near water-filling station. One room in a three bedroom CAC flat, with telephone and kitchen facilities, water and electricity, for a small Indian family or 2 bachelors. Tel. Bagga, 3922106, after 4.30 pm. (AT6-41871-3)

IN Salmiya near Al Fozz Video, one furnished room with A/C water, electricity and telephone facilities, for one bachelor or working girl, Indian or Pakistani only. Tel. 5634802 (AT4-41829-3)

IN Salmiya near junior Indian School, 2 furnished rooms, separate entrance, with water, electricity & telephone, for an Indian family. Bus routes 24, 519. Rent KD110. Tel. Bedi, 4819203, 5613159, 8 am - 6.30 am off, after 8 pm res (AT5-41853-3)

IN Kuwait City behind G.P.O. atop Bulbul Supermarket centrally air-conditioned and semi-furnished single room for a bachelor with an Indian couple. KD80. Tel. Mr. Davis, 2457365. (AT4-41822-3)

NUGRA, Musa Bin Nasir Street, sharing accommodation in a room with 2 persons, with water and electricity for Indian/Pakistani Muslim bachelors. Bus route 18. Rent KD25. Tel. Fakhri, 4845016, 8 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 7 pm. (AT6-41856-2)

IN Salwa (behind Irani shop), House No. 196, Block No. 7, one big room with water, electricity and kitchen, for family/working lady/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243. (AT5-41846-6)

IN Salmiya, behind Mercedes showroom, for Indian bachelors. Bus routes 15, 19, 519, 24, 30. Tel. 5749750, 10 am - 9.30 pm. (AT5-41851-3)

QURTUBA, 2 rooms with kitchen, toilet and separate entrance for families only. Rent KD 90. Tel. Mrs Barretto, 2514331. (AT6-41861-3)

SALMIYA (near Sheri Lynn), one room for Indians only to share with a family. Bus routes 14, 109, 30, 15, 24, 508. Rent KD 25. Tel. Rudolf Andrew D'Souza, 2427202, 2427203, 8 am - 12 noon. (AT6-41868-2)

IN Salmiya, Amman Street, one room in a mulhaq, with water and electricity, for a Christian bachelor to share with an Indian bachelor. Bus routes 18, 30, 24, 512. Rent KD35. Tel. Benjamin, 2450005, ext. 2147, 7 am - 1 pm, 4310824, after 5.30 pm. (AT5-41848-3)

FOR SALE Electrical Appliances

WESTINGHOUSE, washer-dryer combination, National vacuum cleaner, both under warranty and in excellent condition. KD160 and 40 respectively. Tel. Dr Elmasry, 4839741. (AT4-41779-3)

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COLT Super Saloon July '86 excellent condition KD2,100. Toshiba T1100 laptop computer KD500 and many household items for sale. Very reasonable prices. Tel. 5317743. (AT4-41830-3)

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Control and/or window-type Air conditioning Mechanic

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Applicants must possess valid transferable residence. Ready contact: Al-Dhildan Electrical Company, Tel: 2405877, 5615875, from 8 am - 12 noon and 4 - 8 pm. (AT6-41861-3)

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FLAT for sale in Yathrop Street, Jada 1, Area 11, Building 72, first floor, flat No. 4 above Al Quds pharmacy. Tel. 5630372. (AT6-41863-3)

A 3-BEDROOM CAC flat with equipment/furniture for sale, rent KD200, Gulf Road, Salmiya. Equipment/furniture for sale separately also. Tel. Sheikh 5756656, any time. (AT5-41824-3)

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MAZDA 626 GLX, 1986, AC, automatic, blue, 20,000 kms. AM/FM, power antenna, power locks in excellent condition. KD1950 ono, cash. Tel. Zehi Kortunoy, 4836848. (AT6-41858-2)

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92nd Boston marathon has Olympic flavour

BOSTON, Massachusetts, April 13 (UPI). While only one man will break the tape first and only one will wear the coveted laurel wreath, there will be close to a dozen winners in Monday's 92nd Boston marathon.

Boston is truly parading its international plumage this year, including the Olympic trials for Kenya and Tanzania — two of running's superpowers — and playing a critical role in the selection of Olympic squads for several other nations.

Concerned
"There are people who will be running two races — they would like to win the Boston marathon, but they will be equally concerned with their countrymen," said 1976 winner Jack Fultz, who recruits elite athletes for the race.

"There will be races within the race. People are going to be watching only certain other people in the race, not the field at large. The dynamics are very unique."

The first prize of \$40,000 cash and a \$35,000 Mercedes Benz will probably be graven for the winner. A trip to Seoul and the Summer Olympics is on the line for many of the contenders.

Boston has attracted a fast and determined field that, given perfect conditions, could destroy the current world record of 2 hours, 7 minutes, 12 seconds.

There are a handful of men who have cracked the 2:09 barrier, another handful that have gone under 2:10 and a dozen others have run sub-2:12, the magic number that separates the elite from the second tier.

There are 188 entrants who have run sub-2:20.
"And then there are the unknowns, a young crop of East African runners who could blow the race into a frenzy. Several members of the 16-man Kenyan delegation have never before competed in the United States."

Strategies
Speed may likely replace conventional tactical strategies. The better-known and proven runners cannot afford to hold back and hope an eager unknown will crash when he hits the infamous Newton Hills.

"This is a race for the gold more than a race for the green. The dollars will be there again next year. The chance at a precious Olympic gold doesn't wait for another four years."

"The inexperienced runners will do out with the leaders, and some will fail and drop out or fall back and really come in slow," said four-time Boston winner Bill Rodgers, now 40 and taking a shot at the Master's title. "It's a tricky course, and you really need the experience to do well. This field is so loaded, but you always get some unknowns. They are going to go after their compatriots."

Rodgers could again be among the top American finishers because many of the nation's best have bypassed Boston in favour of the US Olympic trials.

Pre-race favourites include Ethiopia's Abebe Mekonnen, who ran a career-best 2:08:33 at Tokyo in February while leading four runners under 2:09, and Juma Kang'ara of Tanzania, second to that Tokyo race in 2:08:42.

There's also Welshman Steve Jones, history's second-fastest marathoner with a 2:07:13 best; two-time winner Geoff Smith of England; and Italians Gianni Poli, Gelindo Bordin and Orlando Pizzolo.

Bypassed
Also running are Kenya's Ibrahim Hussein, winner of last fall's New York City marathon; Ahmed Saleh of Djibouti (2:08:09); and Morocco's Netchadi El Mostafa (2:10:09).

Last year's winner Toshiko Seko has bypassed the race after receiving a berth on Japan's Olympic team, but countrymen Tomoyuki Taniguchi and Hideki Kita are returning.

Budd wants to get controversy behind her

LONDON, April 13 (AP). Zola Budd says she wants to put the lingering controversy over ties to South Africa behind her and get on with her running.

Budd, one of the world's top middle-distance runners, has been unable to shake the critics since moving to Britain from South Africa four years ago.

On Friday, the international track governing body will decide whether to bar her from competition because of her latest trip to her homeland. She denies breaking the rules but told the Times of London that she wants most to finally bring the arguments to an end.

Cleared up
"I just hope that things are cleared up one way or the other, because it has hung over me," Budd said in an interview, published today. "I found it very difficult to concentrate on athletics because I have to consider all

MATTELY AND YANKEES DOUBLE THEIR PLEASURE IN AL

Chris Sabo leads Reds past Giants

NEW YORK, April 13 (AP). When Cincinnati rookie Chris Sabo went into the game as a pinch-runner, everyone knew he was going to run. He did just that, scoring the Reds' winning run against the San Francisco Giants.

Sabo ran for Buddy Bell, who led off the ninth inning last night with a single off loser Scott Garretts, 0-1.

"When he went out there, I told him, 'if they give you third, don't be afraid to take it. You're on your own.' He's not shy," Cincinnati manager Peter Rose said.

Struck out
Sabo stole second after Bo Diaz tried to sacrifice and struck out. Theo Sabo stole third.

"That pitcher looked pretty good, and it's a lot easier to score from third than from second," Sabo said.

After Dave Collins, pinch-hitting for winning pitcher Danoy Jackson, 2-0, walked, Dave Larkin fled to right and Sabo easily beat Caody Maldonado's throw to the plate as Cincinnati beat San Francisco 4-3.

Elsewhere in the National League, it was the New York Mets 3, Montreal 8; Houston 8, Atlanta 3; St. Louis 7, the Chicago Cubs 5; San Diego 5, Los Angeles 3.

Padres 5, Dodgers 3
John Kruk felt he swung at a bad pitch and was waiting to hear San Diego manager Larry Bowa growling. Instead, he heard the home-opener crowd cheering his game-winning grand slam in the fifth inning as the Padres snapped Los Angeles' five-game winning streak.

"I had my eyes closed. I thought, 'oh, no, Larry's going to be mad at me,'" Kruk said. "It

was a terrible pitch. It was up in the strike zone. I shouldn't have even swung at it."

Astros 8, Braves
Nolan Ryan survived a shaky start to pitch a three-hitter through seven innings and Houston handed Atlanta its seventh consecutive defeat. The Braves equalled their worst start in the 22 years the Franchise has been in Atlanta. The 1980 club also lost seven straight.

Cardinals 7, Cubs 5
Bob Horner led St. Louis out of a season-long hitting slump with four hits and two RBIs as the Cardinals downed the Chicago Cubs. The Cardinals had a season-high 18 hits against five Chicago pitchers.

Steve Lake had three hits, including a solo home run, and Vince Coleman had three hits, an RBI and two stolen bases.

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Goetz wins cycling classic
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France's Charly Mottet came in next after weakening on the wall of Huy, 1 minute 12 seconds behind Goetz, but still beat Andreas Kappes for fourth place.

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Woodforde of Australia 7-5, 6-2. In matches between Frenchmen, Guy Forget, No. 8 seed, downed Thierry Champion, 6-3, 6-3, and Thierry Tulasne eliminated Tarik Benhabiles, 7-57-6 (8-6).

Three other Frenchmen won. Jean-Philippe Fleurian won over Gustavo Garetto of Argentina, 6-3, 7-6 and Jerome Potier upset No. 4 seed Jim Arias of United States 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, in completion of suspended matches. Also, Henri Leconte, third-seeded, beat qualifier Diego Narciso of Italy, 7-5, 6-1.

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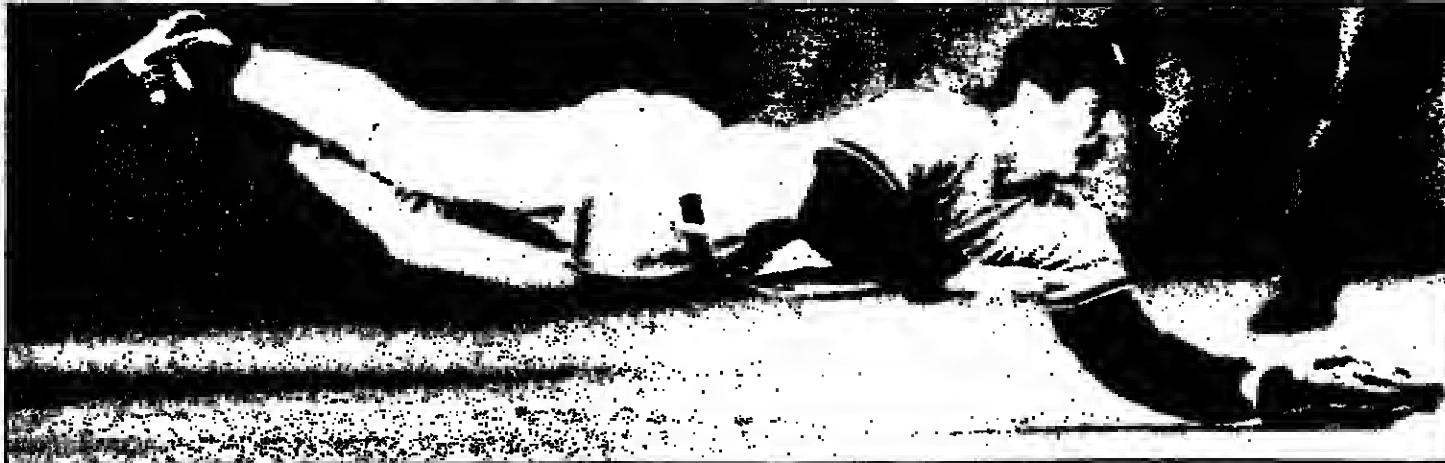
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"If I'd know what was in store for me at 17, I wouldn't have come in the first place," she said. Budd also said that she understood why she had become a target for political protests, particularly over her rapid entry for Britain to the 1984 Games just months after moving.

"Looking back, there are certain things I wish had happened differently," she said. "For instance, I think going straight into the Olympics in '84 was a mistake for all sorts of reasons. I had no time to integrate myself and



New York's third baseman Mike Pagliarulo dives to stop a hit by Toronto's Nelson Liriano, making the throw to first for the lastinning out. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Cavaliers down Hawks

NEW YORK, April 12, (AP). Ron Harpers scored 25 points and Mark Price added 22 points and a career-high 14 assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their fourth consecutive game, 116-103 over the Atlanta Hawks last night.

Cleveland, winning for the seventh time in its last eight games, led by as many as 26 points in the third quarter. The Cavaliers dominated play from the outset, leading 33-22 at the end of one quarter and 65-48 at halftime.

In other National Basketball Association games, San Antonio beat Houston 127-119, Utah

downed the Los Angeles Clippers 100-93, the Los Angeles Lakers edged Portland 109-103 and Dallas beat Sacramento 104-96.

The Hawks lost their third consecutive game following a seven-game winning streak. Dominique Wilkins scored 28 points for the Hawks, who fell 2-1/2 games behind first-place Detroit in the central division.

Spurs 127, Rockets 119
Frank Brickowski had a career-high 34 points and added 15 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs started the fourth quarter with an 18-3 run en route to a 127-119 victory over the Houston Rockets. Akem Olatunwo got 26 points for Houston.

Jazz 100, Clippers 93
Karl Malone scored 39 points, including a dunk with 3:21 remaining that started a 10-0 Utah spurt, and the Jazz went on to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 100-93. John Stockton had 16 points and 20 assists for the Jazz.

Lakers 109, Trail Blazers 103
Byron Scott scored 25 points and Magic Johnson added 21 points, 11 rebounds and 13 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 109-103.

Mavericks 104, Kings 96
Rolando Blackman tied a season-high by scoring 32 points to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 104-96 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Lapierre was introduced today into leading bookmakers' 2,000 guineas lists at 33-1.

Lapierre's trainer Clive Brittain said: "We galloped him on Sunday and he went six lengths clear of his lead horse which decided me to run him."

Tomorrow's Craven stakes sees the long-awaited clash between the current favourite and second favourite for the 2,000 guineas, Warning, ridden by Pat Eddery and Sanquillo, the mount of Steve Cauthen.

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Davies and Jashanmal win on a count back

best score of the day and secure victory on a count back. Four teams tied the best net score of 60 and a fifth with 61.

The winners had a net 28 on the back nine holes to edge Ali Alamuddin and Faisal Ben Khadma who had 29. In third place Iha team of Malhotra and Gidwani who were in with 30.

In side competitions the longest drive for man went to Steven Wattars who had an enormous drive on the third hole. While the ladies longest drive went to Mrs. D. Brero. A.B. Jolly won nearest to the pin competition on the difficult par 3 second hole.

Peter Davies and Tony Jashanmal played a brilliant round of golf in the four ball competition, held last Friday at the H&E club to tie the

The director, doctors, employees and nursing staff at **Kuwait Cancer Control Centre** announce the sad demise of **SOSAMMA VARGHESE** and express their heartfelt condolences to her family and relatives.

May Her Soul Rest In Peace

Tennis at the Hilton

It's "Advantage Hilton" when it comes to Tennis in Kuwait. With our excellent court surface, free and unlimited court bookings, a guest fee of only KD 1 and Membership fees as low as KD 75 for a couple for three months, it makes sense to be a member at the Hilton. And if you're a beginner or want to improve your game, why not use the services of our professional for a Tennis Clinic or private tuition.

For more details of Tennis Membership, the Clinic and private tuition, please call our Recreation Manager on 2533000 or 2530000

KUWAIT HILTON

SPORTS

AL HILAL AND WAZZAN BOTH CONFIDENT

Third round of Kuwait rally begins tomorrow

By Gail Seery

AHMED Al Hilal will be the first driver to leave the start at the SAS Hotel for tomorrow's local rally.

Despite having fallen back to fifth place in the National Championship table, the Rothmans driver is confident that he can make up some much needed points on this event. Second from the ramp will be a very confident Tareq Al Wazzan. "I will win this rally," he told Arab Times and fellow drivers at scrutineering at the KT Club yesterday afternoon.

Wazzan is driving his Marlboro backed Range Rover, and is partnered by Khaled Khalifa. He feels that the stages are especially suited to this type of vehicle, and despite some camshaft trouble earlier in the week is adamant that he can take a victory.

Twisty "The stages are very rough and very twisty. There are few places for high speed."

His Marlboro team-mate Eid Falah, seeded sixth for this event, is equally confident, having installed a new, more powerful engine and a new gearbox in his Al Yazani Range Rover.

"It's a good rally for the Range Rover," he said, adding that he was confident that he and Wazzan would split first and second places between them, though



Khaloud Al Alyan waits to complete formalities.

naturally he hoped that he would be able to take his first ever win in an event. "I'm worried for the standard cars," he said.

Mohammed Al Hussein makes his return in the Toyota Celica, and will be the third to leave SAS. However it was a very badly bruised and battered car that arrived at scrutineering.

Lucky

Hussein who has become renowned for his aggressive driving technique, had a lucky escape in the international when he turned the car over, and his roll bar broke in the top front left hand corner.

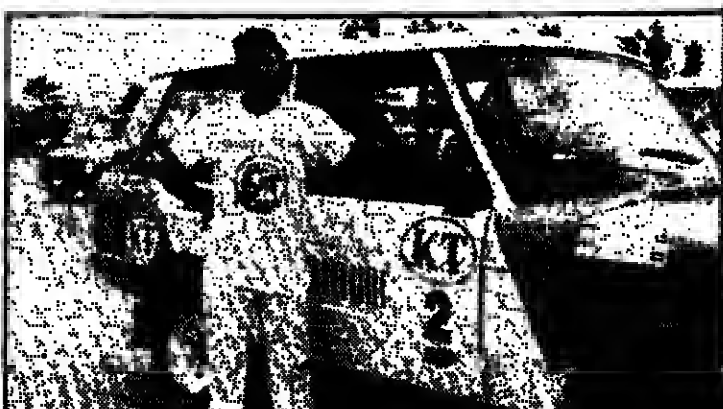
Hussein was extremely lucky indeed to escape with no injury. He has been unable to repair the car fully, and told Arab Times that he was driving for as many

points as possible. He was unable to finish in either of the two local rallies last season, and desperately needs to catch up.

He said that he couldn't stop participating in rallies just because of an accident. "I like it too much," he said. "Other drivers don't drive if they don't have a sponsor, but I'm always there." Even so he concedes that to finish might be the best he can hope for in this rally.

Unfortunately championship leader Josef Miskunig is unable to participate in this event, much to his own, and navigator Klaus Schwingenschloegl's disappointment. "Everything was ready with the car," the co-driver said.

Now he is partnering Peter Frieseneger in the unfortunate VW Beetle. This has now been repaired, and the pair are



Tareq Al Wazzan is confident of a good result

confident that they will set good times. They are a little concerned about being caught by slower cars ahead.

"Overtaking will be impossible in the quarry," said Schwingenschloegl who is currently leading the Navigator's Championship in his own right.

The second placed contender for this year's championship is Faez Chihah. He is confident about his car, though a little disappointed that his wife, who has done a splendid job co-driving for him this season, will be unable to navigate for health reasons.

Chihah is a very experienced driver, and does not need to be told that even the minimum points will push him further and further ahead of his competitors. He was Kuwait's first ever

national champion in 1978, and has added to his competing experience with years spent organising Kuwait's rallies.

Another husband and wife team is Tareq and Khaloud Al Alyan, back in the Denim sponsored Rocky. A comfortable finish here will place him in an even better position in the points table.

Ahmed Al Zafiri, now driving the Daihatsu Charade seems a little bemused at finding himself in such a small car. However, it does seem to be a car that has brought good results for other drivers in the past, and it is to be hoped that it brings him luck.

A total of 29 drivers are expected to start the rally, although five drivers have still to complete scrutineering formalities. The rally start will be at the

SAS hotel at 8.30 am, and the cars will move out to the Maqwa and Sulaibiya areas. The first car is due back at the SAS hotel at 4.30 pm.

List of starters
1. Ahmed Al Hilal / Fahed Al Rashid, Toyota Corolla; 2. Tareq Al Wazzan / Khaled Khalifa, Range Rover; 3. Mohammed Al Hussein / Ibrahim Almoosa, Toyota Celica; 4. Ali Albarani / Mohammed Al Alami, Mitsubishi Lancer; 5. Ahmed Al Zafiri / Massad Hannawi, Daihatsu Charade; 6. Eid Falah / Sadeq Alkhamani, Range Rover; 7. Ahmad Alnaser / Bader Alzaidi, Mitsubishi Lancer; 8. Faez Chihah / Neris Hagobian, Mitsubishi Lancer; 9. Tareq Alalyan / Khaloud Alalyan, Daihatsu Rocky; 10. Noori Alhasawi / Ahmed Alshahin, Nissan Silvia; 11. Lester Featherstonehaugh / Michael Allen, Volvo 240; 12. Munazz Shah / Margaret Catow, Toyota Celica; 13. Michel Alen / Martin Phillips, Volvo 240; 14. Samir Alhusseini / Jaseem Alzafiri, Datsun 160; 15. Ibrahim Almoosa / Talal Alazhar, Datsun 160; 16. Peter Frieseneger / Klaus Schwingenschloegl, VW Beetle; 17. Khawis Alkhamis / Abdulatif Al Rashid, Datsun 180; 18. Abdullah Alshuwai / Anwar Abu Jarwa, Mitsubishi Starion; 19. Mubarak Alomair / Adnan Alomair, Fiat Ritmo; 20. Younis Ali / Walid Alzafiri, Lada; 21. Andre Sorjan / Sarkis Sorjan, Toyota Corolla; 22. Khaled Alshomari / Prince Valsen, Suzuki Jeep Schwingenschloegl, VW Beetle; 23. Saad Alj / Othman Hamdar, Lada; 24. Hassan Alhamad / Azal Alhamad, Mitsubishi Galant; 25. Saad Alshimiri / Ahmad Aladrisi, Datsun 160; 26. Mohammad Alnaser / George Reed, Toyota Corolla; 27. Saad Almutairi / Mazah Deleimi, Nissan Silvia; 28. Hassan Karzy / Hossein Karzy, Fiat Ritmo; 29. Jamal Marafi / Adnan Marafi, Nissan Patrol.

Khan and Devoy post Open squash victories

WEMBLEY, April 13, (AP): World champions Jansher Khan and Susan Devoy posted first-round victories today to begin the British Open squash tournament.

Khan, the men's singles favourite from Pakistan, needed 57 minutes to beat Philip Whitlock of Britain, 9-3, 9-3, 9-2. Devoy, from New Zealand, took half that time to beat Majorie Burke of Ireland 9-4, 9-1, 9-7. Devoy, aiming for her fifth consecutive British Open women's singles title, rallied from a 6-0 deficit in the third game.

In other matches, Bryan Beeson of Britain defeated Anders Wahlstedt of Sweden 9-6, 9-0, 6-9, 9-7, while women's world junior champion Sarah Fitzgerald of Australia beat Babette Hoogendoorn of the Netherlands 9-0, 9-1, 9-6.

Results
Men: Jansher Khan, Pakistan, def. Philip Whitlock, Britain, 9-3, 9-3, 9-2.
Women: Stuart Hallstone, Britain, def. Ricky Hill, Australia, 9-3, 4-9, 6-9.

Karpov wins

BRUSSELS, April 13, (AP): Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union beat Jonathan Speelman of Britain in the 10th round of the \$104,000 Swift World Cup chess tournament yesterday.

9, 9-4, 9-2.
Bryan Beeson, Britain, def. Anders Wahlstedt, Sweden, 9-6, 9-0, 6-9, 9-5.
Ross Thorne, Australia, def. Mir Zaman Gull, Pakistan, 9-1, 9-5, 9-4.

Women:
Susan Devoy, New Zealand, def. Majorie Burke, Ireland, 9-4, 9-1, 9-7.
Sarah Fitzgerald, Australia, def. Babette Hoogendoorn, the Netherlands, 9-0, 9-1, 9-6.
Rebecca Best, Ireland, def. Samantha Langley-Foster, Britain, 9-0, 9-4, 9-5.
Michelle Martin, Australia, def. Cassie Jackson, Britain, 9-3, 9-7, 2-9, 9-3.

Exhibition soccer match

UNITED Sporting Club, Fahaheel will hold an exhibition football match on Friday, the April 15 at 8 am between "New Goans" — the winners of Kuwait Malayalee Samajam Trophy and the team selected from the rest of players of other teams those participated in the tournament.

Prior to the exhibition match USC has also planned to stage a friendly match in the same venue between students (under 16) of New Indian School and Indian School as an encouragement to young soccer players. The kick off will be at 7 am.

West Indies under-23 suffer defeat

Qadir's magic spell pushes Pakistan to victory

CASTRIES, St Lucia, April 13, (Reuters): Leg-spinner Abdul Qadir was at his magical best in a timely spell of destruction that pushed Pakistan's cricketers to victory by 211 runs over a West Indies under-23 XI yesterday.

Qadir captured six for 42 as the under-23 side, left the improbable task of scoring 371 to win on the fourth and final day, crumbled from 99 for one to 159 all out.

Pakistan's accomplished wrist-spinner was effectively supported by medium-pace Zakir Khan, with three for 24, as the touring team boosted their confidence for the second Test

against West Indies starting at port of Spain, Trinidad, tomorrow.

Equally important for Pakistan was that left-arm paceman Wasim Akram emerged untroubled after sending down 10 overs, his first bowl since sustaining a thigh strain during Pakistan's victory in the first Test last week.

Pakistan started the day on a defiant note when their last pair, Hafiz Shahid and Zakir, held out for a further 70 minutes.

They extended the overnight 138 for nine to 173 before Hafiz was caught for 37 off a delivery from off-spinner Nehemiah Perry, who took three for 51.

Akram made the initial breakthrough in the West Indies' second innings when he howled Sudesh Dhaniram for 15 with the last ball before lunch.

Second-wicket pair Delroy Morgan and Roland Holder seemed to be progressing smoothly at 99 for one, when Qadir tilted the balance by snapping up three wickets in rapid succession.

Morgan, who batted 97 minutes for the highest score of 45, was bowled by a top spinner, to end a partnership of 54 in almost even time.

Holder (25) played across a leg break and gave a return catch to the wrist spinner, while first

innings century-maker Keith Arthurton lifted a catch to mid-wicket.

Captain Brian Lara was fifth out at 137, at which point the decline accelerated as four more wickets tumbled with the total on 138.

Last pair Ian Bishop and Barrington Browne resisted for 33 minutes, and Browne struck four fours in his 19 before he was leg before to Qadir.

Scoreboard
D. Morgan b Qadir 45
S. Dhaniram b Akram 15
R. Holder c b Qadir 25
K. Arthurton c Rameez b Qadir 4
B. Lara b Zakir 11
J. Adams b Qadir 5

J. Murray lbw b Zakir 0
N. Perry lbw b Qadir 0
I. Bishop not out 0
R. Dhaniram lbw b Zakir 0
B. Browne lbw b Qadir 19
Extras (b-10 lb-19 w-2 nb-4) 35
TOTAL 159
Fall of wickets: 1-45 2-99 3-105 4-114 5-137 6-138 7-138 8-138 9-138.
Bowling: Akram 10-1-31-1, Hafiz 6-0-33-0, Zakir 11-1-24-3, Qadir 15-3-42-6, Fagih 1-1-0-0.
Result: Pakistan won by 211 runs.

Skylark capture Zarqa trophy

SKYLARK beat Zarqa by 4 wickets and 109 runs in the finals of the Zarqa tournament played at Rumaithiya grounds on Friday.

A smart decision by skipper John Chinna to bat first paid off when he and keeper Victor Martiz scored 25 runs in first two overs when Victor got bowled by Zahid, Victor D'Souza going in kept the score running with the skipper in a 71 run partnership when latter was howled by Waheed for 30.

Victor and Patrick kept the score moving with his breezy 56 which contained 6 fours only to be stumped by Fiaz, so David and Patrick who made 16 and 34 along with Archie, who made 26 quick runs put Skylark in a comfortable target of 205 runs in 35 overs with wickets of Boh and Francis to spare.

Zarqa took up the challenge opening with Arjad and Sharq. Arjad was out in the second over caught by John C off Pareesh's bowling and the next over Sharq was caught behind by V. Martiz off John's bowling.

So Sohail shouldering the responsibility with the score of 13 was at the crease till the 23rd over with his patient knock of 23 runs watching the wickets rolling on the other hand to the fine bowling of Archie and Bob of which Zahed, Shaheed and Waheed went back without scoring and in the 27th over with Naveen being lbw to Victor Martiz were all out for 96 runs.

Bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton bridge club game played on Tuesday N/S
1. Adly Tibb & Magdi Mesdary
2. Mrs Sandra Turvey & Adel Bayoumi
3. Ezzeldin El Saeid & Ehsan Abbasi E/W
1. Dr. Henryk Szul & Robert Stucker
2. Robert Bousquet & Rene Mauriat
3. Mrs Beatrice Pereira & Andry D'Souza
"The marathon bridge" game will be held on Friday at 3.00 pm at Holiday Inn.

Imran could become fourth highest wicket-taker

Pakistan to meet W. Indies today

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, April 13, (Reuters): Pakistan skipper Imran Khan could become the fourth highest wicket-taker in Test cricket during the second Test against West Indies beginning at the Queen's Park Oval tomorrow.

Imran moved above Kapil Dev in the wickets' list when he piloted his side to victory with an 11-wicket haul in the first Test in Georgetown, Guyana, and with 322 to his name stands only three behind fourth-placed Bob Willis.

Inswinger

Omniously for West Indies, whose defeat in Georgetown was their first in a home Test for 10 years, the Queen's Park wicket is expected to lack any significant bounce.

That would suit Imran. By his own admission, he likes wickets with low bounce as they assist one of his most rewarding deliveries — the inswinger.

Pakistan will go into the match with two specialist spinners, Abdul Qadir and Ijaz Faqih, together with two specialist pace bowlers.

Imran has fully recovered from an infected toe, while

Wasim Akram's thigh strain is not expected to prevent him from playing. He said that he felt stiff after a 10-over spell on the last day of the match against West Indies under-23s but was not in any great discomfort.

If Akram fails to pass a late fitness Test Salim Jaffer will deputise.

While Pakistan hope to field the 11 who played in the first, West Indies will welcome back Viv Richards after a surgical operation for an abscess and probably Malcolm Marshall, who has been troubled by a leg injury. Phil Simmons and Winston Benjamin will make way.

Demonstrated

Wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon is doubtful with a fractured finger on his left hand. David Williams, from Trinidad, is standing by to make his Test debut.

The continued absence of Marshall would be a severe blow to West Indies. His expertise was badly missed in Georgetown where West Indies' inexperienced pace attack gifted Pakistan 38 no-balls in the first innings.

Without Marshall, they have no-one to rival Imran whose

ability to move an old ball in the air and off the wicket was demonstrated impressively in the first Test.

His spell after tea on the opening day, which brought him four for 29, began after 60 overs had already been bowled.

The four previous Tests between West Indies and Pakistan in Port of Spain have all produced positive results.

In 1958 Pakistan won the first Test at Queen's Park by an innings but were defeated in the second by 120 runs. In 1977 West Indies won the first Test by six wickets but lost the second by 266 runs.

Probable teams:
WEST INDIES: Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge, Richie Richardson, Viv Richards (captain), Gus Logie, Carl Hooper, Jeff Dujon or David Williams, Malcolm Marshall, Courtney Walsh, Curtley Ambrose, Patrick Patterson.

PAKISTAN: Mudassar Nazar, Rameez Raja, Shoaib Mohammad, Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Ejaz Ahmad, Imran Khan, Salim Yousuf, Ijaz Faqih, Abdul Qadir, Wasim Akram.

Solely

This discussion resulted from a West Indies Cricket Board proposal that players who work in South Africa after September 1989 should not be allowed into other international Cricket Conference (ICC) countries as part of an England team.

The West Indian proposal is due to be considered at the annual ICC meeting in London in July.

During the English winter, an average of between 60 and 70 county cricketers play or coach in South Africa.

Kallicharran back in county cricket

LONDON, April 13, (Reuters): Former West Indies Test captain Alvin Kallicharran, barred last year under regulations covering overseas players, returns to English county cricket next week promising a hard time ahead for bowlers.

"I've been kept out of the game for a season and a half and I'm keen to make up the lost time," the 38-year-old Warwickshire batsman said.

Threatened

Kallicharran, a naturalised British citizen, threatened legal action against the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) last year when he was pushed out under new regulations stating that a cricketer had to reside in England for 10 years before he would be accepted as a home player.

County clubs were allowed only one foreign player and the single slot at Warwickshire went to South African fast bowler Allan Donald, leaving Kalli-

charran, who had been with the club since 1971, without a place.

Court action was avoided in December when the TCCB cut its qualification period to seven years, allowing Kallicharran, who last played in the West Indies in 1981, to continue his Warwickshire career.

"I'm not happier about what has happened to me just that the TCCB would not accept me as a special case," Kallicharran said. "It's not as though I was trying to make money out of the English game and then clear off. England is my home and I'm a citizen of this country."

Meanwhile, England's county cricketers yesterday made it clear they intend to continue playing in South Africa.

The County Cricketers' Association reaffirmed a motion, passed in 1986, that their members should be allowed to play in South Africa without any objections.

At a meeting held at the War-

wickshire county club's Edgbaston headquarters here, the players voted 85-0 in support of their original motion.

Jack Bannister, secretary of the association, said: "The whole point of the discussion was solely on the right to work wherever our players wished. Nothing has changed so far as we are concerned."

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